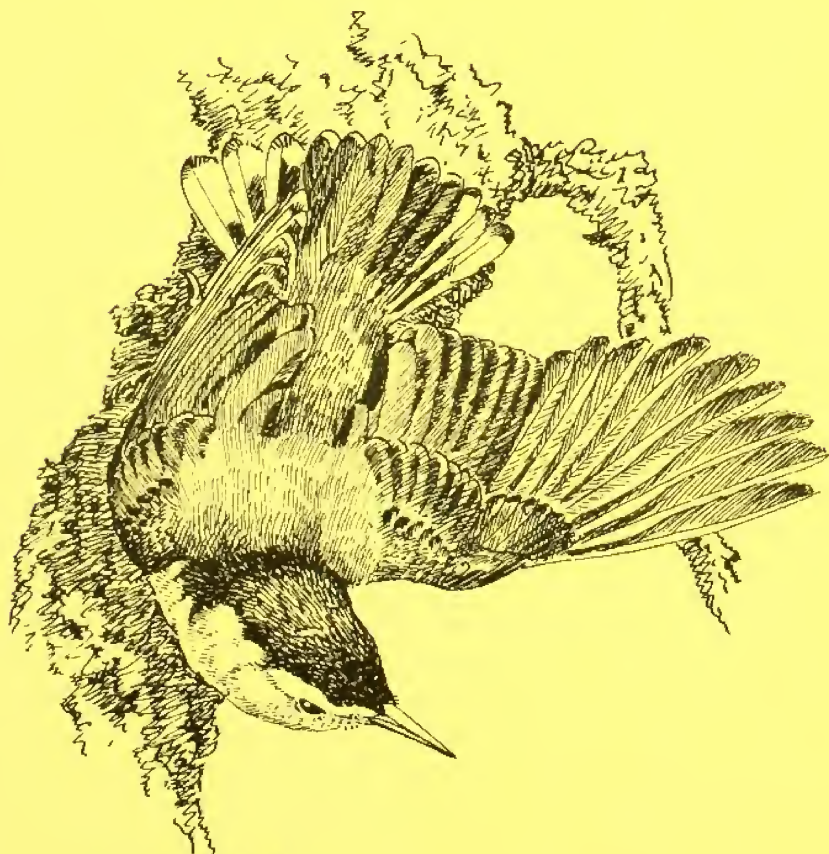


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Effect of Effort and Environmental Variables on Christmas Bird Count Outcomes in Iowa

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INTRODUCTION

Providing a data base for examination of long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance is one of the principal goals of the annual Audubon Christmas Bird County (CBC). Ideally, this data should be independent of any characteristics of the count itself and only reflect real variability in bird populations. However, it is obvious that variables related to the count itself affect count outcomes. Arbib (1967) pointed out that environmental variables, particularly adverse conditions, can have multiple effects. Inclement weather may drive birds into cover as well as affect the number of hours observers are willing to spend in the field. In the northern states, where mid-winter conditions may vary significantly on the annual basis, variation in weather from year to year may account for a large component of the total variation in number of birds observed. Number of observers participating in a given count has also been implicated as a contributor to variation in the number of birds observed (Bock and Smith, 1971). Naturally, the deployment and competence of these observers may also be an important contributor to count success (Heilbrun, 1976).

Unfortunately, quantitative examination of the relationships between variables affecting the count and count results has not been extensive. Raynor (1975) calculated simple correlations between each of eight variables (number of observers, number of parties, party hours, hours on foot, party miles, miles on foot, daily maximum temperature, and daily maximum windspeed) and the numbers of twenty selected species observed over a twenty year period on the Central Suffolk County, Long Island, New York count in an attempt to identify which variables were most highly associated with real count variability. Number of observers and number of parties exhibited the two highest correlations with species' numbers. However, statistical significance of these correlation coefficients was not indicated.

Confer et al. (1979) examined the relationships between physical factors of the count, three effort variables (number of observers, number of parties, and number of party miles), and number of species observed for 216 counts conducted during the 77th annual count. For all counts combined, latitude and a count position on the coast were determined to have the most influence on the total number of species observed. Since these factors are invariant for a given count, the effect of effort variables and varying environmental variables would seem to be of greater interest. Smith (1979) examined the relationships between both environmental parameters and effort variables and the number of species observed over a twenty year period for 12 widely distributed counts. A number of statistically significant correlations were produced but these were limited to specific geographic locales. For example, higher temperature was positively correlated with number of species observed at both Nashville, Tennessee and San Diego, California counts but was not significantly correlated with species numbers at any other of the counts examined. Variation in results among counts used in this study probably reflects the diverse nature of the counts under consideration. In order to eliminate

the complicating effects due to geographic locality, the present study analyzes the relationships of a series of both environmental and effort variables with species number for eight Iowa counts for the twenty-one year period 1958-1978. Iowa, being relatively small and homogeneous, provides an opportunity for examination of Christmas Count trends while minimizing geographic effects.

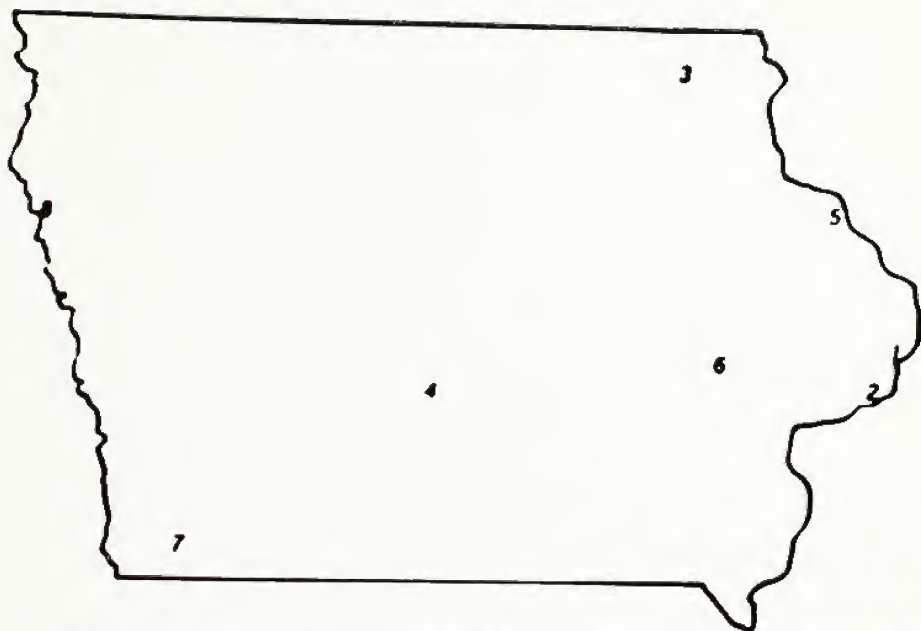


Figure 1. -- Geographic distribution of eight Christmas Counts used in this study: (1) Clinton; (2) Davenport; (3) Decorah; (4) Des Moines; (5) Dubuque; (6) Iowa City; (7) Shenandoah; and (8) Sioux City.

Methods

Based upon regularity in reporting, eight Iowa Christmas Bird Counts were selected for analysis: Clinton, Davenport, Decorah, Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City, Shenandoah, and Sioux City (Figure 1). For the period under consideration, 1958-1978, only two individual reports were missing: Dubuque, 1965 and Sioux City, 1973. The following variables were recorded directly from each count's annual report: (1) daily high windspeed (HW); (2) daily low windspeed (LW); (3) daily high temperature (HT); (4) daily low temperature (LT); (5) number of parties (NP); (6) number of individuals (NI); (7) observer hours on foot (HF); (8) observer hours in a vehicle (HV); (9) miles covered on foot (MF); (10) miles covered in a vehicle (MV); and (11) total number of species (SP) (*American Birds*, 1958-1978). The number of new species per year in Iowa was also determined from count records.

Average number of species per count was calculated for each count year. Partial correlation coefficients between each variable and total number of species were calculated using the PARTIAL CORR routine of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 7 (1979). In an analogous procedure, these same variables were regressed onto number of species observed using the SPSS REGRESSION routine step-wise regression option. The usefulness of the derived regression equation, which represents a linear relationship between count variables and the number of species observed, was tested by predicting the number of species expected for eight Iowa counts conducted in 1979.

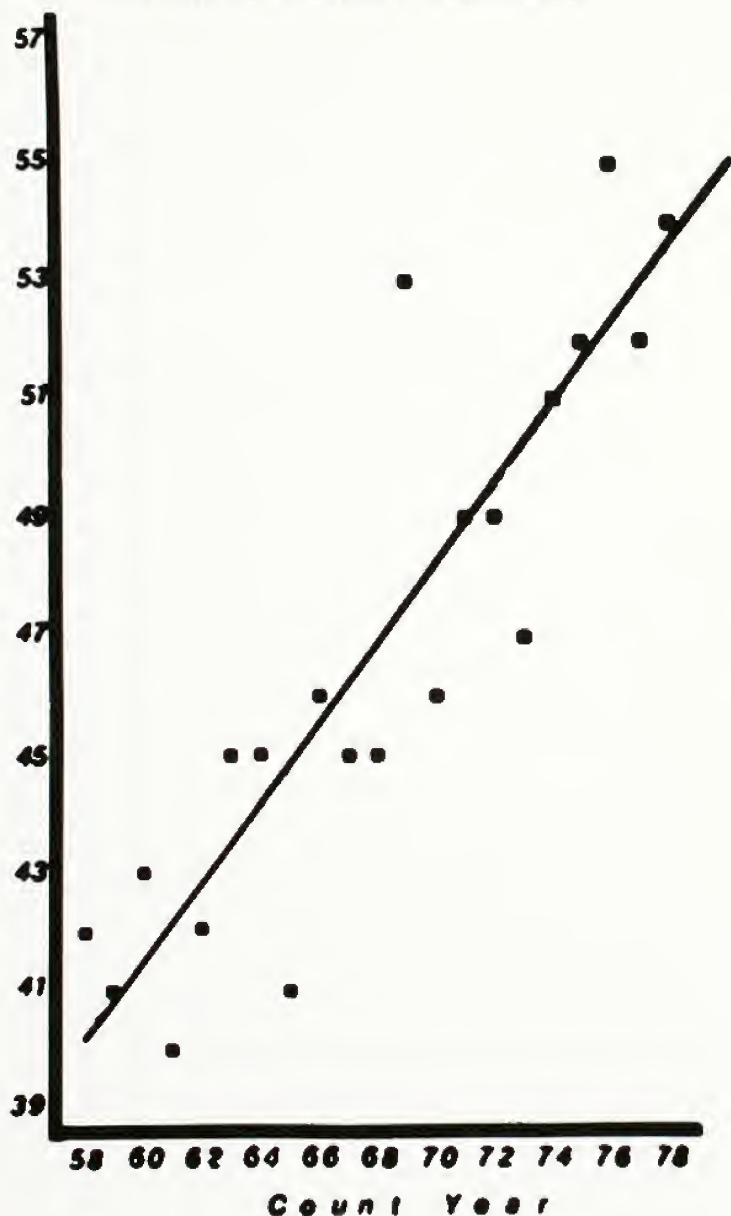


Figure 2. -- Average number of species observed per count for eight Iowa counts for the period 1958-1978.

Results and Discussion

Observer characteristics of the eight Iowa counts used in this study are summarized in Table 1. Over the period considered by this study, two distinct trends are evident for these Iowa counts. The average number of species per count has been increasing steadily (Figure 2). This increase is due to a number of factors including increased participation in Christmas Count activities over the study period, greater count area coverage, and the increased level of observer com-

Table 1. -- Observer characteristics of the eight Iowa counts used in this study.

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Number Parties	5.9	5.4
Number of Individuals	14.0	8.6
Observer Hours on Foot	14.2	11.2
Observer Hours in Vehicle	22.0	14.7
Miles on Foot	17.0	12.5
Miles in Vehicle	250.0	171.3
Number of Species Observed	46.9	14.3

petence over the period of consideration. While the data do not indicate any levelling off of the average number of species observed the last few years, it should be evident that an upper limit to the number of species observed exists. Reaching of this plateau will indicate that the counts are effectively censusing the great majority of those species actually present. The ability of these counts to identify, in a few years, the majority of those species that occur in Iowa during the Christmas Count period, can be seen by examination of the second count trend. Using the 1958 count year as a base line, the number of new species added per year, obtained by comparing a count year's results with the sum of all preceding study years, decreased rapidly (Figure 3). For the first eight years considered in this study, $6.6 + 3.7$ new species were added per year. Over the last twelve years, $2.2 + 1.3$ new species were added per year. Apparently, only a relatively short period was needed to document the basic composition of Iowa's avifauna, as subsequent effort added new species at a much lower rate. This latter group of species is probably comprised either of rarer species which inhabit Iowa on a regular basis but because of their scarcity are not observed readily or species which are only sporadically present in Iowa during the count period. Since many of the Iowa counts have a history far predating the period under consideration in this study, it is reasonable to conclude that the cumulative results of all Iowa Christmas Counts have provided a very complete picture of the winter species composition in Iowa. Taken together, these two features of Iowa counts indicate that, at least on a state-wide level, the Christmas Bird Count effort in Iowa is approaching one of its goals, that of effectively identifying all species which occur within the state.

Despite the long-term trend toward more effective coverage of the state's avifauna, considerable variation between counts and between count years still exists. While the actual number of species in any given area at a particular time may vary, much of the variation may instead be due to other factors of count effort, and environmental effects upon the counts.

Partial correlation analysis may be used to examine the relationship between any pair of variables, while holding all other variables constant. In this case, partial correlation coefficients were calculated between each count variable, holding all others constant, and the observation variable of interest, total number of species observed. Of the ten variables considered, six (MV, HF, NI, NP, LW, HW) produced statistically significant partial correlations with number of species observed (Table 2).

Table 2. -- Partial correlations between count variables and number of species observed. *** $p \leq .001$; ** $p \leq .01$; * $p \leq .05$

	MV	MF	HV	HF	NI	NP
SP	.383***	-.014	.075	.18*	-.217**	.131*
	LW	HW	LT	HT		
	-.238**	.165**	.008	-.005		

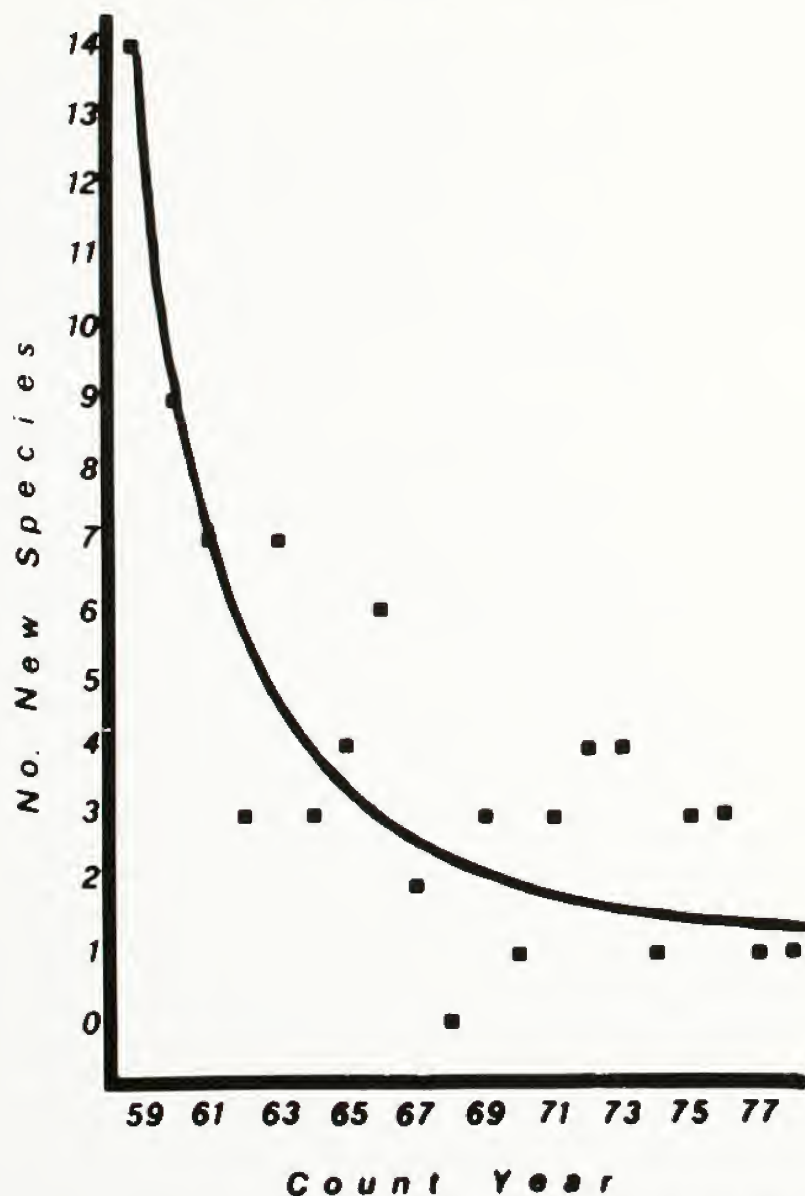


Figure 3. -- Number of new species observed in Iowa for the eight Christmas Counts used in this study. Species observed in Iowa on the 1958 count are used as a baseline for comparison.

The significant positive partial correlation between number of species and miles in a vehicle, indicates that as more miles are driven, holding all other variables constant, the total number of species observed increases. An experienced observer can readily identify many species from a moving vehicle and this relationship simply reflects the greater coverage afforded by driving more miles in a given unit of time. In contrast, hours on foot and not miles on foot is

significantly correlated to the total number of species observed. The positive correlation indicates that as more time is spent on foot, more species will be observed. The implication for increasing count effectiveness is that an attempt should be made to increase the amount of time spent in areas being censused on foot rather than maximizing the ground covered on foot. Areas being censused on foot, such as woodland, may require, in contrast to those censused by car, more thorough examination to disclose many of those species actually present.

As might be expected, the number of observers and their organization into observation parties is significantly correlated to the number of species observed. These two variables are related to total number of species in opposite ways. Number of parties is positively correlated with number of species observed. Thus, as the number of parties increases, an increased yield of species observed results. However, number of individuals is negatively correlated with total number of species observed. Together, these correlations indicate that maximum count effectiveness can be achieved by utilizing more parties of fewer individuals per party. Large party size may increase the amount of inter-observer distraction as well as drive more birds out of a given area, thereby accounting for this effect.

Of the environmental variables considered, only high and low windspeed were statistically significant. The positive correlation between high windspeed and number of species is unexpected since high winds generally drive birds into cover as well as diminish the range over which an observer can hear and identify a bird call. The negative correlation between low recorded windspeed and number of species observed. Together, these correlations indicate that maximum count effectiveness should decrease, as explained above. The reasons for this difference in effect are unclear. The lack of significance of temperature variables indicates that temperature variation does not consistently explain variation in the number of species observed on Iowa counts.

It is also possible to estimate the relationship of the environmental and effort variables considered to number of species observed using the technique of multiple regression. The result of such an analysis is a multiple regression equation which relates the dependent variable, number of species, to a linear combination of independent variables, in this case, the effort and environmental variables of the count. Use of this equation allows prediction of a value of the dependent variable (SP) as a function of the measured independent variables. Stepwise multiple regression of number of species onto the environmental and effort variables produced the regression equation of Table 3.

Table 3. -- Results of stepwise multiple regressing of number of species onto environmental and effort variables. ** $p \leq .01$; * $p \leq .05$

	Coefficient	Percent Variation	F
MV	.050	.652	21.1 **
HF	.271	.022	5.7 **
LW	-.474	.010	9.6 **
NI	-.378	.009	7.9 **
HW	.224	.007	4.7 **
NP	.404	.008	2.8 *
Intercept	32.1		

Six variables are retained as significant ($p \leq .05$) in this regression equation. Approximately 71 percent of the total variation in number of species is accounted for by these variables. The value 21.1 is a constant and theoretically corresponds to

the number of species that would be observed when the value of all the independent variables is zero. Substitution of the appropriate values for each of the significant variables into the following equation allows prediction of the expected number of species to be observed.

$$SP = 32.1 + 0.0496(MV + 0.0271(HF) - 0.474(LW) - 0.378(NI) + 0.224(HW) + 0.404(NP))$$

The usefulness of this equation was tested by applying it to the eight counts used in this study for count year 1979, which was not employed in construction of this equation (Table 4). Relatively good agreement between predicted and actual values was obtained with the exception of the Clinton and Shenandoah counts. These large deviations are probably due to qualitative features of these counts which are not considered in the prediction equation. In general, this prediction equation allows a count coordinator to obtain an estimate of the number of species to be expected in a count area given the environmental conditions on count day and manpower on hand as well as evaluate count outcome relative to expectations based on the these same variables.

Table 4 -- Predicted and actual number of species observed for eight Iowa Christmas Bird Count areas for 1979.

Count Area	Predicted Number	Acutal Number	Difference
Clinton	48	61	+13
Davenport	60	68	+ 8
Decorah	41	42	+ 1
Des Moines	42	33	- 9
Dubuque	52	54	+ 2
Iowa City	63	59	- 4
Shenandoah	43	60	+17
Sioux City	41	35	- 6

Acknowledgments

Advice during the course of this study was kindly offered by Peter C. Petersen of Davenport, Iowa. Margaret J. Legg provided computing assistance. Computer time was provided for by St. Ambrose College.

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Birds Recorded from Brushy Creek Recreation Area, Webster County, Iowa

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Brush Creek Recreation Area lies approximately 21 km southeast of Fort Dodge in Washington and Webster townships of Webster County. It consists of 1,700 ha most of which is former farm land. Brushy Creek, the only important stream in the area, enters in the northwest corner and meanders for 14 km before exiting in the southeast corner. Several ponds have been constructed on the area in recent years. There are about 729 ha of deciduous woodland, almost all of it heavily grazed in the past. Some of the area, especially on the western edge, is currently leased out as crop land. A few areas are planted in wildlife food crops and a small area in the southeast corner is maintained as a primitive picnic area and campground. Trail riders, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts use the area most frequently. At present the area is largely left to its natural progression with minimal influence from man.

In 1978 and 1979 several trips were made ot Brushy Creek Recreation Area as part of an environmental assessment and one objective was to compile a list of birds. All trips except one were over a 3-day period. We recorded 101 species and records for an additional 19 species were supplied by other individuals. The species and dates they were recorded are given in Table 1. The May trip, during the peak of spring migration, was devoted primarily to observing birds, otherwise observations were for brief periods of time or made while working on other projects. The American White Pelican and Canada Goose only passed over Brushy Creek Recreation Area whereas all others spent time on the area.

Table 1. Birds observed on Brushy Creek Recreation Area.

Species—	Dates	1978	1979	15-17 Sep.	5-7 Oct.	16-17 Nov.	14-16 May	21-23 Jun	12-14 July	Others
American White Pelican										a
Great Blue Heron										b
Green Heron							x		x	c
Snow Goose										d
Canada Goose					x					b
Wood Duck										a
Mallard										a
Blue-winged Teal										a
Common Merganser										a
Turkey Vulture				x			x	x	x	a
Bald Eagle										e
Northern Harrier										b
Sharp-shinned Hawk					x					
Cooper's Hawk				x						
Red-tailed Hawk				x			x			
Red-shouldered Hawk										f
Rough-legged Hawk						x				
American Kestrel				x			x			

BIRDS OF BRUSHY CREEK

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Common Bobwhite	x	x	x	x	x	x	b
Ring-necked Pheasant		x	x	x	x	x	b
Gray Partridge						x	
Wild Turkey							g
Sora	x						
American Coot				x			
Killdeer				x	x	x	
Solitary Sandpiper							a
Spotted Sandpiper						x	
American Woodcock							h
Rock Dove				x		x	
Mourning Dove	x			x	x	x	b
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	x				x	x	
Black-billed Cuckoo				x			
Common Screech Owl		x					b
Great Horned Owl					x	x	
Barred Owl	x	x		x		x	b
Long-eared Owl							a
Short-eared Owl			x				
Saw-whet Owl							a
Whip-poor-will	x			x	x	x	
Common Nighthawk							a
Chimney Swift				x	x	x	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird						x	c
Belted Kingfisher	x	x		x	x	x	b
Common Flicker	x			x	x	x	b
Red-bellied Woodpecker	x	x		x			
Red-headed Woodpecker	x	x		x	x	x	b
Hairy Woodpecker	x	x					
Downy Woodpecker	x	x		x	x	x	
Eastern Kingbird				x	x	x	
Great Crested Flycatcher				x	x	x	
Eastern Phoebe				x	x		
Least Flycatcher				x			
Eastern Pewee				x	x	x	
Olive-sided Flycatcher					x		
Horned Lark					x		
Bank Swallow				x			
Rough-winged Swallow				x	x	x	
Barn Swallow				x	x	x	
Cliff Swallow					x	x	
Blue Jay	x	x	x	x	x	x	b
American Crow	x	x	x	x	x	x	b
Black-capped Chickadee	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Tufted Titmouse							a
White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x		x	x	x	b
House Wren				x	x	x	
Sedge Wren				x			
Gray Catbird	x			x	x	x	
Brown Thrasher				x	x	x	
American Robin	x	x		x	x	x	
Wood Thrush						x	

Swainson's Thrush				x			
Gray-cheeked Thrush				x			
Eastern Bluebird		x		x	x		
Cedar Waxwing							a
European Starling				x	x	x	
White-eyed Vireo				x			
Bell's Vireo							i
Yellow-throated Vireo						x	
Red-eyed Vireo						x	
Warbling Vireo					x	x	
Black-and-white Warbler				x			
Tennessee Warbler				x			
Nashville Warbler				x			
Northern Parula							j
Yellow Warbler				x	x	x	
Magnolia Warbler				x			
Yellow-rumped Warbler				x			
Black-throated Green Warbler				x			
Ovenbird				x		x	
Common Yellowthroat				x	x	x	
Wilson's Warbler				x			
American Redstart				x			
House Sparrow		x		x	x	x	
Bobolink				x	x		
Eastern Meadowlark	x			x	x		
Western Meadowlark				x	x	x	
Yellow-headed Blackbird							a
Red-winged Blackbird				x	x	x	
Orchard Oriole				x			
Northern Oriole				x	x	x	
Common Grackle				x	x	x	
Brown-headed Cowbird				x	x	x	
Scarlet Tanager				x		x	
Northern Cardinal	x	x		x	x	x	b
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	x			x	x	x	
Indigo Bunting				x	x	x	
Dickcissel					x	x	
American Goldfinch	x	x		x	x	x	
Rufous-sided Towhee	x			x	x	x	
Savannah Sparrow				x	x		
Grasshopper Sparrow					x	x	
Vesper Sparrow				x	x	x	
Northern Junco			x				
Chipping Sparrow				x			
Field Sparrow				x	x	x	
Harris' Sparrow				x			
White-throated Sparrow		x		x			
Fox Sparrow		x					
Lincoln's Sparrow				x			
Song Sparrow		x		x	x	x	
Total Species Recorded	27	23	8	76	53	58	

1Common names as in most recent I.O.U. Field Check list.

a -- Records supplied by J. C. Kolesar and others.

b -- Records obtained during September and October 1979 trips. Little attempt was made to record birds on these trips and they are not listed separately. In spite of this 2 speices were seen that had not been recorded previously.

c -- Records supplied by M. S. Hummel; seen on 24 June 1979.

d -- Record supplied by J. Gillespie; seen in spring 1979.

e -- Record supplied by J. C. Kolesar; seen in November 1980.

f -- Record supplied by J. C. Kolesar; seen on 17 January 1981.

g -- Records supplied by A. G. Madson, J. C. Kolesar, and others; seen in 1979 and 1980.

h -- Records supplied by D. D. Smith and M. S. Hummel; seen on 16 and 24 June 1979, respectively.

i -- Record supplied by D. M. Roosa; heard in June 1978.

j -- Record supplied by J. C. Kolesar; seen in fall 1980.

Smith's Longspur in Iowa

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Smith's Longspur, *Calcarius pictus*, is a rare species that breeds in the arctic from Hudson Bay to Alaska and winters in southcentral United States directly to the south of Iowa. In fact, the range maps in the field guides depict the winter range to include southern Iowa. In spite of Iowa being within the range of this species, there are only two published records from Iowa in the last 50 years. Early this year Mike Newlon and I hypothesized that this grassland species might be encountered in Iowa by extensive walking of grassy pastures about the tenth of April, the expected time of peak migration. We dismissed the idea of a search as being too time consuming considering the wide dispersal of appropriate habitat. However, I unexpectedly encountered this species on April 11, 1981.

I was birding with Mike Mulier, a Belgian medical student, and decided to return home from the Coralville Reservoir area by a pasture ½ mi. west and 3 mi. south of Swan Lake, Johnson County, to look for a possible early Upland Sandpiper. While looking over the pasture for the sandpiper, I note several sparrow-sized birds with white outer tail feathers fly up from the grass and back down again out of sight. The number and behavior seemed atypical for Vesper Sparrows, so I entertained the thought that they might be pipits. Since they were too far away to see detail with binoculars, I switched to a window mounted 20X telescope. I followed those that flew up until one lit on a fence wire. It was all gray and nondescript. We looked briefly at pipits in the field guide and I resumed scoping. The next bird to land on a wire was also gray, but it had a white wing patch, an odd mark for a pipit I thought. Soon a third bird landed on the wire. It had light yellow underparts, black and white face pattern with prominent white superciliary line, and a white wing patch. I now knew I was observing my second male Smith's Longspur, the first having been on its breeding grounds east of Mount McKinley, Alaska in 1978.

We obtained permission from the farmer to walk out along the fence line. When we were about half way from the road to the birds, about 100 of them took off, circling past us and heading northwest. I was able to pick out several male birds in breeding plumage including the yellow underparts, black and white face pattern, and white wing patch. Four strays flew into an emerging oat field and were not

seen again. Two more circled us several times repeating a 3 to 4 note call. The distance precluded our seeing the details of the face pattern as illustrated in the field guides or the light colored legs. Tom Shires and Carol and Mike Newlon searched the area within the next two hours but failed to find the birds.

The observations of early Iowa ornithologists suggest that Smith's Longspur was a common, but erratic migrant and occasional winter resident prior to 1900. Trippe (1873) noted great numbers appearing in late October of 1872 in southern Iowa (Decatur County). He also noted a partiality for wet meadows and smaller flock size as compared to Lapland Longspurs. Keyes and Williams (1889) considered Smith's Longspur to be a migrant, appearing in mid-April in flocks of 50 or more and frequenting old stubble fields. Cooke (1888) refers to a flock of 50 at Des Moines on April 18, 1885. Male and female specimens from this flock are at Iowa State University and a male is at the University of Iowa. Jones (1892, 1895) found Smith's Longspur commonly in the winter at Grinnell, Poweshiek County. His charts show it occurring in February, March, and variably into early or late April in the years 1887-1890 but not 1886. Cooke (1911) gives early and late dates for Grinnell and Keokuk, Lee County, as follows. Fall: Grinnell October 18, 1888 and November 4, 1889 and Keokuk November 7, 1899 and November 28, 1899; spring: Grinnell March 9, 1887 and April 30, 1888 and Keokuk March 15, 1903 and April 20, 1897. Other references from around 1900 without specification of specific sightings include March 30 to April 16 in Scott County where they were said to be "not common" (Wilson 1906), a "common winter visitant" in Pottawattamie and Mills Counties according to Trostler (Anderson 1907), a "common migrant" in Lee County according to Currier (Anderson 1907), and dates of April 11 and 20 in Lee County according to Praeger (Anderson 1907). Anderson (1907) also lists a University of Iowa specimen taken at Tiffin, Johnson County but gives no date. DuMont (1934) lists a specimen at Northern Iowa University taken by Harry Fields at Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County, on April 22, 1899.

This fragmentary evidence up to and around 1900 suggests that Smith's Longspur was regular in Iowa albeit erratic. After 1900 the records are sparse. All that I located in the literature are annotated below.

- December 1902, Linn County, Berry (Anderson 1907). "Shot one from a mixed flock."
- March 15, 1903, Keokuk, Lee County, observer not given (Cooke 1911).
- April 8, 1910, Clay or O'Brien County, I. N. Gabrielson (Gabrielson 1917). Five seen.
- July 29, 1915, Mitchell County, F. M. Tuttle (Tuttle 1915). One hundred were reported on this most unusual date. The description could fit female and immature Bobolinks.
- February 3, 1918, north of Sioux City, ? Woodbury County, Allen and Ludcke (Stephens 1918). Four males.
- February 12, 1923, Sloan, Woodbury County, C. J. Spiker (Spiker 1926). Ten to 12 seen.
- November 23, 1923, near Terrill, Dickinson County, F. L. R. Roberts (Roberts 1936). Large flock watched for over an hour.
- October 25, 1925, south of Morningside, ? Woodbury County, C. J. Spiker (Spiker 1926). Two.
- April 1928 and 1929, Amana, Iowa County, Kubichek (DuMont 1934). Five specimens taken for Coe College.
- May 3, 1964, Sugar Bottom area of Coralville Reservoir, F. W. Kent (Brown 1964). One female or winter male. White wing patch seen (fide T. H. Kent).

—April 6, 1968, southeast of Shenandoah, Page County, Frances M. Bordner and Jean M. Braley (Brown 1971). Upon inquiry, Jean M. Braley wrote the author on May 2, 1981: "The sighting is memorable, since it is my only record. My notes read '4-6-68: Five (possibly 6) Smith's Longspurs seen at Brown's Pond; five observed at close range, one in breeding (summer male) plumage, two with white on shoulders.' I recall that the sixth bird remained hidden in clumps of grass edging the pond and we could not positively identify it, but when the five longspurs flew after we had watched them for several minutes, the sixth bird joined them."

Do Smith's Longspurs currently migrate through Iowa as the range maps would suggest? They are found consistently in southern Illinois in April. This is a secretive species that is not easy to locate, but it does have a restricted type of habitat and a narrow migration interval. Based on the scanty evidence of this species in Iowa and more general reading, I suggest that the best chance to find it is as follows. About the tenth of April walk short moist grassy fields or airports looking for small (or perhaps large) flocks of birds that fly up suddenly and return to the ground just as suddenly. Look for white outer tail feathers. Birds on the ground are well concealed even in short grass, but they are usually tame enough to be stalked. Smith's Longspurs usually do not mix with other species and prefer wetter areas than Lapland Longspurs. The fall migration in October and November is more protracted, so the chances of encounter on a survey would seem to be less likely. If there are enough volunteers, I will organize a Smith's Longspur survey next spring. Let me know if you are interested.

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I.O.U. Spring Meeting, 1981

Mary Lou Petersen
Davenport, Iowa

The fifty-ninth annual convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union convened in Iowa City, Iowa on May 2 and 3, 1981. The host organization was the Iowa City Bird Club. The meeting was held in facilities of the University of Iowa. The meeting marked the third time that the Iowa Ornithologists' Union held a joint meeting with the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Tom and Ann Kent hosted early arrivals at an open house Friday evening.

The Saturday events featured an early morning field trip for birders. Following registration, The Nature Conservancy business meeting was convened by I.O.U. President Carl Kurtz.

The afternoon session featured a panel discussion on "Difficult Problems of Bird Identification." Tom Kent of Iowa City discussed difficulties presented by the dowitchers. James Dinsmore of Ames discussed the rigors involved in differentiating the yellowlegs. Mike Newlon of Iowa City discussed the surmountable hardships involved in distinguishing the Ross' Goose from the more abundant Snow Goose. Ross Silcock of Malvern concluded the discussion by differentiating the Rusty Blackbird from the Brewer's Blackbird in spring when identification is the most difficult.

Following a rather extended break, Lenny Freed of Iowa City gave a extremely interesting presentation on "Breeding Biology of House Wrens in Iowa." His research was based on the question, "Why don't birds, e.g. House Wrens, lay more eggs?" He presented his carefully gathered data using both slides and a film.

Following the panel and paper were some brief reports. Tom Kent discussed the records committee need for documentation of unusual sightings. He summarized how to document. Mike Newlon followed and discussed how to know when to document. Ross Silcock, the C.B.C. editor, discussed what it is like to read a documentation form and the need for the C.B.C. form to be typed.

James Dinsmore discussed the progress of the book, *Birds of Iowa*, which will cover about 365 species accounts.

Following Carl Bendorf's discussion of the logistics of the Sunday morning field trips, the I.O.U. business meeting was called to order by President Carl Kurtz. Peter Petersen of Davenport moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with as they were printed in IBL. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lowther of Burlington and the motion carried. The President then called on Ruth Buckles to give the treasurer's report. See opposite page. Following the report Tom Kent moved that the treasurer's report be printed in IBL. The motion was seconded by Mike Newlon and it carried.

The auditing committee report was given by Leroy Pratt. The committee found the treasurer's records in good order. The committee, which was made up of Mr. Pratt and Sylvan Runkel, both of Des Moines, had two recommendations for the IOU. That the treasurer should look into an interest-producing checking account and that the editor should check bids of other printers for the printing of the IBL. The editor commented that this was done regularly.

President Kurtz named Dick Mooney and Tom Kent to the nominations committee. Rick Hollis of Iowa City moved that a committee for a state wide hot line like the one that Illinois had be established. Calvin Knight seconded and the motion carried. Mike Newlon suggested the group give our retiring treasurer a round of standing applause. The suggestion was complied with.

Peter Petersen gave the editor's report. He said the deadline for material for the June issue was June 10th. He can use notes for the section of general notes. He reminded the group that the deadlines for field notes is always on the back cover of IBL at the bottom. He also announced that six breeding bird survey routes were open and that he would welcome volunteers to cover these routes.

Tom Kent moved adjournment, it was seconded and the motion carried.

I.O.U. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May 2, 1981

Balance on hand 5-10-80 \$ 107.64

RECEIPTS:

Memberships	\$3,808.00	
"Birding Areas of Iowa" Book	462.94	
Check Lists	60.95	
Decals	11.60	
Brassards	25.95	
Issues of Iowa Bird Life	43.79	
Annotated Lists	132.45	
Balance from Fall I.O.U. Meeting	106.34	
Transfer from Savings Account to Pay for		
June 1980 Issue	200.00	4,852.02
Total Receipts and Balance Forward		4,959.66

DISBURSEMENTS:

Iowa Bird Life:

Printing -- Monticello Express	\$2,668.67	
Editor's Fee	100.00	
Editor's Telephone Expense	25.75	
Envelopes	88.79	2,883.21

Postage:

Second Class Permit for I.B.L.	\$ 75.00	
Editor's Expense	38.25	
Treasurer's Expense	25.35	
Librarian's Expense	30.00	168.60

Printing:

Fall Meeting	\$ 6.00	
Spring Meeting	12.55	
Dues Notice	32.75	
Letterhead	19.83	71.13

Misc. Expenses:

Trans. -- Life Membership Dues to United		
Fed. Savings & Loan	150.00	
Paper Material for Librarian	21.63	171.63
Total Expenses		3,294.57

BALANCE

Central Natonal Bank, Des Moines, Checking Account	\$1,665.09
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Deposits -- United Federal Savings

& Loan Certificate	\$2,937.90
Savings Account	975.45
Scholarship Fund -- Woodward	
H. Brown	519.68

(Interest included in above, earned during the year \$255.17)

Ruth Buckles, Treasurer

The banquet was held in the Iowa Memorial Union, Triangle Ballroom. Following the meal, which was quite good, the group was pleasantly entertained by a novel approach to a banquet program. Tom Kent, Mike Newlon and Bernie Knight presented a slide program of "Birding In Alaska". Each speaker had slides of their trip to Alaska and the composite views made for a very interesting and informative evening.

The business meeting was reconvened on Sunday following Sunday's luncheon at the Triangle Ballroom. Marlys Huff presented the following resolutions:

Be it resolved by the 59th Annual IOU and the 3rd joint IOU and TNC meeting on May 2nd and 3rd, 1981, that we the members thank the Iowa City Bird Club for hosting the spring meeting.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given to:

1. The University of Iowa for the use of their facilities.
2. To the officers and executive council and our editor and librarian for their efforts on behalf of our organization, and special thanks to Ruth Buckles for her years of excellent service as treasurer of the IOU.
3. To Tom Kent, Mike Newlon and Bernie Knight for the banquet program.
5. To the field trip leaders on both Saturday and Sunday. Marlys Huff moved that the resolutions be accepted. The motion carried.

The nominations committee reported the slate of officers as follows: president, Ross Silcock; vice president, Mike Newlon; secretary, Mary Lou Petersen; treasurer, Hank Zaletel; executive committee, Darwin Koenig, Carl Kurtz, Raymond Cummins and Gene Burns. Tom Kent moved that the slate be accepted. The motion carried.

Ross Silcock assumed the chair and asked the group for an invitation for the fall meeting. Peter Petersen invited the group to the Deere-Wiman House in Moline on September 5 and 6, 1981. Ross Silcock told the group that an invitation is needed for the 1982 spring meeting. He told the group to think about the possibility of hosting the meeting. Your secretary moved adjournment, Francis Moore seconded it, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Birds observed

Peter Petersen was compiler. The species number for the day was 160 and ten additional species were seen on Saturday. Bird List — Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Night Heron sp., Least Bittern, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Black Duck, Common Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Common Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Golden Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forester's Tern, Caspian Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House

Wren, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Shrike sp., European Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Species seen on Saturday only: Common Loon, Osprey, American Avocet, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Dowitcher sp., Western Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Northern Parula.

Registered Attendance — 121

Thirty-three persons signed the register for Nature Conservancy that are not included on the I.O.U. listing, some attending did not register.

Ames -- James Dinsmore, John Robinson, Bill Robbins, Hank and Linda Zaletel.
Booneville -- Eugene and Eloise Armstrong.

Burlington -- Jane Fuller, Anna Lowther.

Cedar Rapids -- Norman and Floy Erickson, Karl and Ruth Goellner, Beryl and Patricia Layton, Roberta Oppedahl, Robert and Jean Vane.

Centerville -- Bill and Marjorie Heusinkveld.

Coralville -- Marlyn Glasson.

Davenport -- Peter and Mary Lou Petersen.

Des Moines -- Ruth Buckles, Dwight and Margaret Brooke, Thomas and Nancy Davidson, Jim Gritton, Gladys Haskell, Gene Holmes, Dick and Paully Mooney, LeRoy and Louise Pratt, Mark Rouw, Dennis Thompson.

Dubuque -- George and Frieda Crossley.

Eldora -- Garnita Seward, Nancy Slife.

Fort Dodge -- Mary Sand.

Hastings -- Barbara Wilson.

Indianola -- Rick and Beth McGeough.

Iowa City -- Carl Bendorf, Noel and Mona Brown, John Cordell, Margrieta Delle, S. DeKock, Edgar and Mary Folk, Jim and Karole Fuller, Ed Gentzler, James Huntington, Barbara Haring, Rick Hollis, M. L. and Jane Huit, T. H. Kent, Cal and Bernie Knight, Dawson and Bobby Mohler, Ramona McGurk, Mike and Carol Newlon, Mary Noble, Evelyn Oaks, Terry and Anne Perkins, Barbara Rohrbough, Tom Shires, Al Schenck, Tom Staudt, Jim Sandrock, Jody Sandrock, Richard Tetralt, Betty Lou Tucker, Ruth Williams.

Lake Mills -- Sibyl Sand.

Liscomb -- Beth Proescholdt.

Marshalltown -- Gayle Diggins, Norman and Jean Eige, Marlys Huff, Carol McMillan, Janes and Grace Wignall.
 Mason City -- Beth McBride.
 Muscatine -- Allan Hahn.
 Melbourne -- Annette Fitz, Hazel Fitz.
 Montezuma -- Darwin Koenig.
 Newton -- Herb and Edith Dorow.
 Oskaloosa -- Keith and Irene Layton.
 Ottumwa -- Nelson Hoskin.
 Pleasantville -- Robert Thornburg.
 Pocahontas -- Raymond and Madeline Cummins.
 Spencer -- Burdell and Irene Triplett.
 Storm Lake -- Edwin and Virginia Crocker (Note - registered but cancelled due to illness and donated \$30.00 to I.O.U.)
 St. Anthony -- Carl Kurtz.
 Union -- Phyllis Harris, Ramona Sommerlot.
 Waterloo -- Harvey and Anna Mae Kirchgatter, Francis Moore, Bob Myers, John and Lois Osness.
 Prospect Heights, Ill. -- Bill and Mary Kay DeBaets.
 Leuven, Belgium -- Michael Mulier.

1980 Bird Banding in Iowa

IRENE LAYTON
 OSKALOOSA, IOWA

Bird banding reports for 1980 are down, but Pete Petersen terminated his large banding project, and that dropped the total way down. Ayres led in total birds, but Laytons led in total species.

We have three new banders this year, we want to welcome Rene and Christyna Laubach, they band at the Des Moines Center and Industry, David Newhouse, Wildlife Biologist, also Don Sievers at Springbrook. I'm sure they will get as much pleasure banding as the rest of we banders.

Six banders made up the "ONLY ONE CLUB" for 1980, with a list of 23 species by the following banders:

AYRES -- Olive-sided Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler.

IOWA CON. COM -- Black Duck, Northern Shoveler.

DIGGS -- Caroline Chickadee, Marsh Wren, Sedge Wren, Prothonotary Warber, Pine Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak.

LAYTON -- Sora, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Bells Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Bobolink.

MOSMAN -- Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk.

PETERSEN -- Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Mrs. DeLong sent me some returns agains this year, a Purple Finch banded as a brown bird 3-20-75, recaptured as a male 3-14-77, recaptured again 1-8-81. A N. Cardinal banded 11-16-74 recaptured 11-07-80. Does that prove that the N. Cardinals don't remove their bands? Following is a list of the Iowa banders who reported to me, and the number of species and individual birds banded by each in 1980.

Name	Species	Total Birds
Charles & Darleen Ayres	99	3,183
Gladys Black	30	72

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Gene & Marilyn Burns	44	700
Genevieve DeLong	62	771
Fitzhugh & Hazel Diggs	105	2,136
Paul & Mary Felsing	33	326
Iowa Conservation Commission	8	5,785
Rene' & Christyna Laubach	48	475
Keith & Irene Layton	122	3,025
Dean Mosman	23	585
David Newhouse	29	118
Pete Petersen	65	856
Ruth Phipps	34	482
Don Sievers	11	16
Marie Spears	34	148
Betty Walters	16	79
Totals	162	18,757

Canada Goose	572	Great Crested Flycatcher	28
Mallard	2,168	Eastern Phoebe	21
Black Duck	1	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	30
Common Pintail	8	Acadian Flycatcher	21
Green-winged Teal	75	Willow Flycatcher	27
Blue-winged Teal	1,881	Least Flycatcher	83
Northern Shoveler	1	Eastern Pewee	39
Wood Duck	1,080	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15	Empidonax sp. Flycatcher	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	Bank Swallow	14
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Rough-winged Swallow	10
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Barn Swallow	80
American Kestrel	136	Cliff Swallow	332
Sora	1	Purple Martin	230
American Woodcock	4	Blue Jay	403
Common Snipe	1	Black-capped Chickadee	377
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Carolina Chickadee	1
Mourning Dove	39	Tufted Titmouse	56
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	58	White-breasted Nuthatch	105
Black-billed Cuckoo	12	Red-breasted Nuthatch	12
Common Screech Owl	9	Brown Creeper	54
Great Horned Owl	4	House Wren	532
Barred Owl	2	Winter Wren	5
Long-eared Owl	4	Marsh Wren	1
Chuck-will's-widow	3	Sedge Wren	1
Whip-poor-will	9	N. Mockingbird	6
Common Nighthawk	4	Gray Catbird	566
Chimney Swift	2	Brown Thrasher	228
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	American Robin	632
Belted Kingfisher	7	Wood Thrush	23
Common Flicker	88	Hermit Thrush	35
Red-bellied Woodpecker	34	Swainson's Thrush	233
Red-headed Woodpecker	69	Gray-cheeked Thrush	90
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	11	Veery	28
Hairy Woodpecker	31	Eastern Bluebird	107
Downy Woodpecker	216	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8
Eastern Kingbird	31	Golden-crowned Kinglet	134

Ruby-crowned Kinglet	168	American Redstart	59
Cedar Waxwing	239	House Sparrow	18
Loggerhead Shrike	3	Bobolink	1
European Starling	12	Eastern Meadowlark	3
White-eyed Vireo	4	Western Meadowlark	3
Bell's Vireo	1	Yellow-headed Blackbird	14
Yellow-throated Vireo	9	Red-winged Blackbird	203
Solitary Vireo	35	Orchard Oriole	18
Red-eyed Vireo	116	Northern Oriole	278
Philadelphia Vireo	16	Rusty Blackbird	14
Warbling Vireo	19	Brewer's Blackbird	1
Black-and-white Warbler	48	Common Grackle	227
Prothonotary Warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	54
Worm-eating Warbler	1	Scarlet Tanager	14
Golden-winged Warbler	5	Summer Tanager	3
Blue-winged Warbler	4	Northern Cardinal	312
Tennessee Warbler	319	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	231
Orange-crowned Warbler	90	Black-headed Grosbeak	1
Nashville Warbler	262	Blue Grosbeak	7
Northern Parula	3	Indigo Bunting	131
Yellow Warbler	18	Dickcissel	36
Magnolia Warbler	87	Evening Grosbeak	18
Cape May Warbler	1	Purple Finch	563
Black-throated Blue Warbler ..	4	Pine Siskin	78
Yellow-rumped Warbler	245	American Goldfinch	1,339
Black-throated Green Warbler ..	7	Rufous-sided Towhee	11
Blackburnian Warbler	7	Savannah Sparrow	8
Chestnut-sided Warbler	23	Grasshopper Sparrow	20
Bay-breasted Warbler	24	LeConte's Sparrow	2
Blackpoll Warbler	3	Vesper Sparrow	24
Pine Warbler	1	Lark Sparrow	6
Palm Warbler	15	Northern Junco	747
Ovenbird	122	American Tree Sparrow	394
Northern Waterthrush	40	Chipping Sparrow	81
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	Clay-colored Sparrow	3
Kentucky Warbler	11	Field Sparrow	48
Connecticut Warbler	6	Harris' Sparrow	66
Mourning Warbler	18	White-crowned Sparrow	17
Common Yellowthroat	117	White-throated Sparrow	250
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	Fox Sparrow	13
Hooded Warbler	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	42
Wilson's Warbler	62	Swamp Sparrow	31
Canada Warbler	14	Song Sparrow	45

FIELD REPORTS

SPRING 1981

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor

211 Richards Street

Iowa City, Ia. 52240

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

March continued the warm trend of February with practically no precipitation. April was also unseasonably warm with less than usual rainfall.

May was cooler than normal with more normal rainfall. Low water made for good mudflats in April, but the rain in eastern Iowa raised water levels so that shorebirding was poor by late May. However, in southwest Iowa water remained low with good but not extensive shorebird habitat.

GENERAL TRENDS

The warm spring made March waterfowling an anticlimax to February. April brought much better birding than usual with many early records. The warbler migration was more prolonged than usual and viewing was made difficult by the early leafing of trees. The only mild warbler wave noted was May 13 when 24 species were seen in the Iowa City area by Tom Staudt between 6 AM and 6 PM, but on the same day Silcock and Kent could find only 9 species between 3 AM and 8 PM in southwest Iowa.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

In this report you will see many references to early and late records. These are based on data being gathered for a forthcoming book. The early warm weather coupled with extensive coverage of the state produced many early record dates. Several accidental species were encountered. Thayer's Gull, if accepted by the Records Committee, will be a new species to the state. However, it is likely that more will be discovered soon as Iowa birders are just learning to separate immature Thayer's from immature Herring Gulls. Other accidentals were Arctic Loon, Whimbrel, and Smith's Longspur. Casual species seen were Red-necked Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Ross' Goose, Sandhill Crane, Glaucous Gull, Burrowing Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Prairie Warbler, and Lark Bunting. The Yellow-throated Warbler was again widely encountered and should be considered regular. Regular species of note were large numbers of Eared Grebes and few Horned Grebes, many Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets, Snowy Egret, King Rail, large numbers of Avocets, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bewick's Wren nesting, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Common Loon: 2 at L. Macbride (TK) and 1 at Little Wall L. (GoB, GeB) on 4 Apr. are the second earliest date on record. Several lingered into May: 12 May in Taylor Co. (TK, RSi), 14 May at Trumble L., Clay Co. (MBre), and 27 May at Montezuma (DK).

Arctic Loon: One in breeding plumage appeared on Amana L. on the evening of 28 Apr. in company of a Common Loon (+CB, +MN, +TK). See note by Bendorf.

Red-necked Grebe: There were two reports of this rare grebe, one at Waterloo on 12 Apr. (+RMy, +FM, TSJr) and one at Trumble L., Clay Co., on 8 May (+MBre).

Horned Grebe: Scarce this year, only two reports: 3 on 22 Mar. at L. Macbride (TK) and 3 on 18 Apr. at Riverton WA (FM).

Eared Grebe: There were several reports from w. Iowa and one from e. Iowa at Liscomb Lagoon, Marshall Co., from 16-20 May (BPr). The earliest was 11 Apr. at L. Manawa (BWi), the latest on 21 May at IPL Settling Pond, Pottawattamie Co. (BWi), and the highest count was 18 at three locations in s.w. Iowa on 13 May (RSi, TK).

Western Grebe: Three reports: 1 at Dan Greene S. on 8 May (JD), 1 dark phase bird at Coralville Res. 9-11 May (TK, +MN, m.ob.), and 5-8 at Trumbull L. on 8-14 May (MBre, RC). Notes should be made on dark and light phase birds since this species may be split.

American White Pelican: 700 were noted in s.w. Iowa, 400 at Riverton WA and 300 at L. Manawa on 18 Apr. (FM); 114 were at Sunken Grove on 14 Apr. (RC); and 53 were at Red Rock Res. on 17 Apr. (RT).

- Double-crested Cormorant:** Early dates were 31 Mar. at L. Manawa (BWi) and 4 Apr. at Swan L., Johnson Co. (TK); 1 was still at L. Manawa on 20 May (TB, BPa,SK). High counts were 250 at Riverton WA on 18 Apr. (FM), 174 at South Twin L., Calhoun Co., on 24 Apr. (RC), 160 at Clear La. on 24 Apr. (RA fide JLH), and 111 at Hendrickson M. on 18 Apr. (JD).
- Great Blue Heron:** 31 at Coralville Res. on 23 May suggests the possibility of a new or enlarged breeding colony (TK).
- Little Blue Heron:** Nine reports, an unusual number for spring: two on 11 Apr. at New Albin, Allamakee Co. (FL), 1 on 22 Apr. at L. Manawa (BPa,SK,TB), 1 on 26, 27 Apr. at George Wyth S.P. (FM,RHa,TSJr,RMy), 2 on 29 Apr. at Montezuma (DK), 1 on 5 May near Larrabee (MBre), 1 on 7 May at Marble Rock (PK), 1 on 16 May at Hendrickson M. (SD,GoB,GeB fide JD), 1 on 28 May near Des Moines (CL fide RL), and 1 on 29 May near Croton, Lee Co. (RMy).
- Cattle Egret:** Nine reports, all singles except as indicated: 11 Apr. at Cone M. (MN,TStau), 12 Apr. at Coralville Res. (TStau), 5 on 16 Apr. in Lucas Co. BR fide JD), 18 Apr. at New Albin (DK), 18 Apr. at Willow S. (FM), 28 Apr. at Montezuma (DK), 3 May near Cone M. (PP,m.ob.), 11 on 4 May at Indianola (MK fide JD), and 9 May at IPL Settling Pond, Pottawattamie Co. (TB, JG,MG).
- Snowy Egret:** 1-2 were at Diamond L., Poweshiek Co. from 22-28 Apr. (DK).
- Black-crowned Night Heron:** Singles near Nevada and near Boone on 8 Apr. were early (fide JD).
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** Five reports: 1 on 5 Apr. at Cone M. (RHo,TStau), 1 on 8 Apr. at Ames (JSb fide JD), 3 on 13 May at Riverton WA (TK,RSi), 1 on 25-26 May in Poweshiek Co. (DK), and 1 on 27 May at Don Williams L., Boone Co. (GoB).
- Least Bittern:** Early dates were 30 Apr. at Muskrat S. (TK,TStau) and 3 May at Cone M. (RHo,HZ). One was also seen at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 23 May (CB,TStau,TK).
- American Bittern:** One was early at Big M. on 5 Apr. (RMy).
- White-faced Ibis:** A dark ibis was spotted at Otter Creek M., Tama Co., on 1 May, but it was not close enough for species evaluation (+BPr,PH,GS,RSo). On 13 May, 14 White-faced Ibis were discovered independently by B. J. Rose and by +Kent and Silock. See separate note and photo. Later two were seen at Willow S. on 19 May (+BWi) and two more at Taylor L., Fremont Co., on 21 May (BWi,RSi,BJR).
- Whistling Swan:** 2 were at Willow S. on 16 Mar. (BWi) and 1 at Cone M. on 21-22 Mar. (TK,CB).
- Great White-fronted Goose:** 700-800 at Little Clear L. on 1 Apr. was the highest count reported (MBre). Two were late at Hendrickson M. on 14 May (JD).
- Ross' Goose:** 1-2 were seen at Willow S. on 24 Mar. (+TK,TSh,PP), 26 Mar. (+BWi), and 28 Mar. (+RMy).
- Canada Goose:** 9 were late on 31 May at Hendrickson M. (PM).
- American Black Duck:** 3 were at Folsom L., Mills Co., on 15 Mar. (TB, m.ob.). One was still at Riverton WA on 20 May (RSi).
- Cinnamon Teal:** 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 5-8 Apr. (RMo, m.ob.); 1 at Sunken Grove 29 Apr. to 16 May (MBre,+RC); and 1 at Spring Run WMA, Dickinson Co. on 6 May (DH).
- Canvasback:** 1500 were at Red Rock Res. on 12 Mar. (RT).
- Redhead:** 400 at Red Rock Res. on 12 Mar. (RT).
- Greater Scaup:** Up to 8 were seen at L. Manawa and IPL Settling Ponds from 3 Mar. to 2 Apr. (+BWi,TB,+TK, m.ob.).
- Hooded Merganser:** A pair was seen s. of Muscatine on 8 May (PP).

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEY

Turkey Vulture: There were seven March reports, the earliest being 8 Mar. near Runnells, Polk Co. (RT) and 15 Mar. at Ames (JSch fide JD).

Osprey: There were many reports from all areas of the state. Early dates were 4 Mar. on the Upper Iowa R. (BB fide DN), 28 Mar. at Cherokee (MBre) and Springbrook S. P. (RC). Many were noted into May, the latest being 20 May at Marble Rock (PK), 16 May at Coralville Res. (TK), 14 May at Hendrickson M. (JD), and 13 May at Sweet M. (FM,RMy).

Bald Eagle: On 1 Mar. 25 were at Coralville Res. (CB). On 3 Mar. there were 107 between Davenport and Burlington by aerial survey (PP). On 18 Apr. one was seen at New Albin (TK), a sight where nesting was thought to occur last year (FL).

Northern Harrier: A nest with one egg was found at Hayden Prairie on 30 May (RMy,FM).

Cooper's Hawk: Late dates were 23 May at Yellow River F. (FM,RMy) and 15 May at Elkhart (DMos).

Red-tailed Hawk: A Krider's variant was seen in w. Sioux Co. on 23 Mar. (JV).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Singles were reported from 7 Mar. to 30 May from Sweet M. (FM,RMy), Coralville Res. (TK), Backbone S.P. (FM), Wildcat Den S.P. (PP), Marble Rock (PK), Yellow River F. (DK), and Davenport (PP).

Broad-winged Hawk: 80 were at Nashua on 26 Apr. (FM,RMy,TSJr).

Swainson's Hawk: 1 or 2 were reported from many areas: 4 Apr. at Sweet M. (FM), 14 Apr. at Cedar Falls (RMy), 18 Apr. at White Pine Hollow (TK), 20 Apr. at L. Manawa (SJ fide TB), 24 Apr. at Muskrat S. (TStau), 13 May in Mills Co. (TK,RSi), and 23 May in Clayton Co. (FM).

Rough-legged Hawk: 2 were at Volga L. on 14 Mar. (FM).

Peregrine Falcon: Documented reports were from Coralville Res. on 26 Apr. (+MN) and 29 Apr. (+TStau), Muskrat S. on 30 Apr. (+TK,TStau), and n.w. Muscatine Co. on 3 May (+TD).

Merlin: One was seen near Ocheyedan, Osceola Co., on 17 Mar. (+DH).

Ruffed Grouse: One was found for the first time at Sweet M. on 22 Mar. (RMy,FM). One was at Shimek F. on 28 May (RMy). At least 6 were heard drumming in Yellow River F. at dawn on 18 Apr. (TK,MM).

Gray Partridge: 1 to 2 on 14 and 25 May were a first for Story Co. (HZ,GoB,GeB). Two were near Castalia, Winneshiek Co., on 31 May (DK).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS

Sandhill Crane: An immature was reported from near Dudgeon L., Benton Co., on 1 May (DV fide DN).

King Rail: One was found in n.w. Marshall Co. (+BPr,RSo,PH,GS).

Virginia Rail: One was late at Hendrickson M. on 25 May (PM).

Sora: One was late at Cardinal M. on 30 May (FM,RMy).

Common Gallinule: Singles were seen at Green I., Jackson Co., on 23 May (TK,TStau) and Montezuma on 27 May (DK).

American Coot: One was at Anderson L., Hamilton Co., on 1 Mar. (MR fide JD).

American Avocet: It must have been a record year for Avocets with reports from 12 localities from 19 Apr. to 25 May. The largest numbers were 42 on 19 Apr. at McIntosh WA, Cerro Gordo Co. (BO,J&JW fide JLH), 38 on 28 Apr. at L. Manawa (BWi), 16 on 26 Apr. near Forney L. (TB,m.ob.), 9 on 24 Apr. at South Twin L. (RC), and 9 on 2 May at Coralville Res. (CKn,TK,m.ob.). Other sightings were 1 on 6 May at Big Creek L. (MBro,RMo), 1 on 10 May near Carroll (EW,LF), 2 on 11 May at Smith's S., Clay Co. (TN fide DH), 1 on 16 May at Hendrickson M. (GoB,GeB,SD), 1 on 19 May at Saylorville Res. (MBro,RMo), and 5 on 25 May at Cherokee (MBre).

- Piping Plover:** One was seen at Marble Rock on 7, 12 May (PK) and another was seen in Mills Co. on 13 May (RSi,TK).
- Lesser Golden Plover:** Early dates were 21 Mar. at Cone M. (TK) and 24 Mar. at Willow S. (TK,TSh,PP). Normal to large numbers were reported from all areas of the state in April and the first half of May.
- Black-bellied Plover:** The only reports were from Coralville Res. on 8 and 17 May (TK).
- Hudsonian Godwit:** Normal numbers were reported from 12 locations.
- Marbled Godwit:** There were more reports than usual and most provided diagnostic details including a record early date of 5 Apr. at Big M. (+FM,+RMy,RHa). Three were at Coralville Res. on 19 Apr. (m.ob.). Others were singles at Keg L., Mills Co., on 29 Apr. (BPa,TB), 9 May at Taylor L., Fremont Co. (RSi), 13-14 May at Little Wall L. (HZ,GoB,GeB), and 19 May at Willow S. (+BWi).
- Whimbrel:** This accidental species was seen and described at Willow S. (+BWi). This is the 12th state record and first since 1973.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** Early dates were 24 Mar. at Willow S. (TK,TSh,PP) and 27 Mar. at Little Wall L. (JD).
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** The early date was 24 Mar. at Willow S. (TK,TSh,PP). On 26 Apr. there were 350 at Coralville Res. (MN).
- Solitary Sandpiper:** A record early date was 5 Apr. at Cone M. (TK) and the third latest on record was 21 May in Johnson Co. (TStau).
- Willet:** Willets were reported from nine locations from 24 Apr. to 14 May. The highest count was 11 at Keg L., Mills Co., on 29 Apr. (BPa,TB).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** Reports were from L. Manawa on 14 May (SS fide TB) and 23 May (LPa,BPa,RG fide TB), Willow S. on 30 May (+BWi), and Hendrickson M. on 25 and 30 May (PM,HZ,GoB,GeB).
- Wilson's Phalarope:** Late date was 30 May at Hendrickson M. (GoB,GeB,HZ) and Cardinal M. (FM,RMy).
- Northern Phalarope:** Reports were from Willow S. on 11, 19 May (BWi), Marble Rock on 14 May (PK), Coralville Res. on 16 May (TK,TStau), w. of Ames on 19, 21 May (GC fide JD,HZ), and Fremont Co. on 20 May (RSi).
- Common Snipe:** Late dates were 24 May near Council Bluffs (BPa,LPa) and 21 May at Swan L., Johnson Co. (TStau).
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** A large flock of 200 unidentified dowitchers were at Sweet M. on 13 May (FM,RMy). Diagnostic details were provided for short-bills seen on 5 May at L. Manawa (BPa,SK,TB), 8, 10, 13, 16 May at Coralville Res. (TK, MN,TStau), and 11 May at Willow S. (BWi).
- Long-billed Dowitcher:** Details were provided for birds seen at Coralville Res. on 8 May (TK), Liscomb Lagoon on 5, 10, 16 May (BPr), and Willow S. on 11, 19 May (BWi).
- Sanderling:** Two on 8 Apr. at Waterloo were two weeks earlier than the previous record date (RMy,TSJr); 14 at Riverton WA on 26 Apr. were also early (RSi). Other sightings were all in late May: 20, 23 May at L. Manawa (BPa,LPa,TB, BJR) and 30 May at Hendrickson M. (HZ).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** One on 11 Apr. at Coralville Res. was early (TK).
- Western Sandpiper:** Two reports: 26 Apr. at Riverton WA (TB, m.ob.) and 8 May at Coralville Res. (TK).
- Baird's Sandpiper:** Two on 2 Apr. at Willow S. (BPa,TB) were at a record early date. Others were 5 at Keg L. on 3 May (BPa,LPa), 2 at Hendrickson M. on 14 May (JR), and 6 at L. Manawa from 9 to 24 May (TB, m.ob.).
- Pectoral Sandpiper:** Early and late dates were 21 Mar. at Coralville Res. (TK) and

- 24 May at L. Manawa (TB). On 4 Apr. 500 were at Coralville Res. (TK).
- Dunlin:** Record early dates were 2 Apr. at Willow S. (BP_a,TB) and 19 Apr. at Coralville Res. (CB,TK). On 13 May 40-50 were at Sweet M. (FM,RMy) and on 28 May 45 were at Cardinal M. (DK).
- Stilt Sandpiper:** One was early at Keg L., Mills Co., on 29 Apr. (BP_a,TB). On 23 May there were 28 at Hendrickson M. (PM) and on 24 May there were 25 at L. Manawa (BP_a,LP_a,TB).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** On 26 Apr. 2 were seen near Forney L. (+TB,SK,JaK) and on 12 May 5 were seen in courtship display at Taylor L. in Fremont Co. (TK,RSi).
- Glaucous Gull:** A white-winged gull, larger than a Ring-billed, was seen briefly on 22 Mar. at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co. (+RC). Although Iceland Gull cannot be excluded, it was most likely a Glaucous Gull.
- Herring Gull:** Several immatures lingered at Coralville Res. with one remaining until 17 May (TK).
- Thayer's Gull:** A new bird for the state has to be the best bird of the season! It was seen by many (+RSi,+TK,+PP,+RMy, m.ob.). See note by Silcock. Documentations and many photos by B. J. Rose, Petersen, and Kent will be submitted to the Records Committee for evaluation.
- Ring-billed Gull:** On 9 Mar. there were 1200 at L. Manawa (BWi). On 15 May 50, mostly immatures, lingered at Coralville Res. where there were abundant fish in shallow water.
- Franklin's Gull:** Early and late dates were 18 Mar. at L. Manawa (TB) and 25 May at South Twin L., Calhoun Co. (RC).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** Early and late dates were 31 Mar. and 5 May at Red Rock Res. (RT).
- Forster's Tern:** A record early date was 12 Apr. at Coralville Res. (TStau fide TK). Another early date was 18 Apr. at Little Wall L. (GoB,GeB,HZ).
- Common Tern:** Five reports: 1 at Bettendorf on 11 May (TK,CB,PP,RSi), 1 in Fremont Co. on 12 May (TK,RSi), 4 at Red Rock Res. as 16 May (RT), 1 at L. Manawa on 20 May (BP_a, SK,TB,BJR), and 1 at Willow S. on 21 May (BWi,RSi,BJR).
- Caspian Tern:** There were three late sightings: 4 at Montezuma on 25 May (DK), 38 at South Twin L. on 25 May (RC), and 5 at Hendrickson M. on 30 May (GoB,GeB,HZ).
- Black Tern:** One at L. Manawa on 29 Apr. (BP_a,TB) was a record early date.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

- Ringed Turtle Dove:** One at Davenport on 6 May was described to Petersen by phone (George Russell fide PP).
- Burrowing Owl:** A migrating bird landed south of Ames on 1 Apr. and was seen by many (+TK). See note and photo by Zaletel.
- Saw-whet Owl:** Fred Leshner "called out" a Saw-whet Owl near New Albin, Allamakee Co., on 11 Mar.
- Chuck-will's-widow:** These were reported from the same locations as in previous years: Waubonsie SP (RSi,TK,BWi), n. w. Mills Co. (TB,JG,MG), and Shimek F. near the ranger station (Wayne Fahlbrugge fide RMy).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** As usual, there were only a few scattered sightings.
- Common Flicker:** A red-shafted one was seen in Des Moines on 12 Apr. (RL).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** One in Des Moines at Ashworth P. on 13 Mar. was quite unusual (RL).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** One was still at Ames on 3 May (JD) and a pair were at Stone P., Sioux City, on 31 May (RSi).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH STARLING

Western Kingbird: Central Iowa records were from Pleasantville, Marion Co., on 1 May (+RT) and Dunbar S., Greene Co., on 14 May (TK).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: An immature was sighted near Amana on 26 Apr. (+CB,+TK,+MN). See note by Bendorf. Another was reported near Clarinda (Ernest Borthwick fide RP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The following sight records were provided without identifying details: 13 May at Ames (JSb fide JD), 22 May at Ames (JR), and 2 on 30 May at Davenport (PP). Although this species has been frequently netted in migration by Petersen, few are identified in the field. The Records Committee has designated this as a species for which details (not full documentation) should be provided (see *Iowa Bird Life* 50:73, 1980).

Acadian Flycatcher: Individuals were noted from the Amana Woods on 19 May (CB) and n. e. Mills Co. on 28, 29 May (BWi) as well as more usual locations.

Alder Flycatcher: One was reported without detail from Ledges SP on 24 May (GoB,GeB). Hearing "fee-bee-o" is required for identification of this species.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Late dates were 25 May at Iowa City (MN) and 29 May in n. e. Mills Co. (BWi).

Rough-winged Swallow: Record early dates were 4 Apr. at Coralville Res. (TK) and 8 Apr. in s. e. Polk Co. (RT).

Purple Martin: One was early at Elkhart on 23 Mar. (DMos).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Late dates were 16 May at Iowa City (TStau) and 24 May at Des Moines (RT).

Brown Creeper: One was at Iowa City on 1 May (TStau) and another at Waubonsie SP on 26 Apr. (RSi).

Winter Wren: One was late at Sweet M. on 10 May (FM,TSJr).

Bewick's Wren: Before my plea for information was printed in the last issue of *Iowa Bird Life*, James Huntington discovered one singing in his backyard near Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on Apr. 17. Later two were seen and were shown off to members attending the IOU convention. They nested in the eave of a shed and fledged three young about the end of May.

Carolina Wren: There were no reports.

Marsh Wren: Two were at Little Clear L. on 17 Apr. (RC) set a record early date. One at Cone M. on 25 Apr. was also early (TK).

Sedge Wren: One at Muskrat S. on 30 Apr. (TK,TStau) tied the record early date.

Northern Mockingbird: The 14 reports were equally divided among Apr. and May. The two most northerly were from n. Marshall Co. on 24 Apr. (BPr,MPr,RSO) and Oak Grove SP, Sioux Co. (JV). The latter was the first sighting in 8 years for Van Dyk.

Townsend's Solitaire: One was seen on 29 Mar. n. of Redfield, Dallas Co. (+RC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Two were present at a record early date of 5 Apr. at Sunken Grove (RC). Other early dates were 19 Apr. at Ames (PM) and 23 Apr. at Ledges SP (HZ).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Early and late dates were 1 Apr. at Ames (NR fide JD) and 21 May at Coralville Res. (TStau). The latter was described in detail and is the second latest date.

Water Pipit: Four reports: 3 on 11 Apr. at Sweet M. (RMy), 1 on 26 Apr. at Nashua (FM), 2 on 6 May in Osceola Co. (DH), and 2 on 8 May at Coralville Res. (TK).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: One was at Sunken Grove on the record early date of 5 Apr. (+RC). Another Apr. sighting was at Iowa City on 20 Apr. (TStau). Other locations were Amana Woods on 9 May (TStau,CB,TK), Montezuma on 20 May

- (DK), Shimek F. on 28 May (RMy), and Effigy Mounds on 30 May (DK).
- Solitary Vireo:** Six was an unusual number for 16 May at Iowa City (TK).
- Philadelphia Vireo:** A number were reported with a peak of 7 at Sunken Grove on 16 May (RC).
- Black-and-white Warbler:** Two on 5 Apr. at Sunken Grove (RC) represent the second earliest date on record.
- Prothonotary Warbler:** Singles were at Ames on 6 May (BR fide JD), Marshall Co. on 25 May (MPr fide BPr), and L. Manawa on 21 May (SJ,SS fide TB).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** A territorial male was heard and seen by many at Wildcat Den SP from 3 to 25 May (m. ob.). Others were found at Yellow River F. on 24 May (RMy) and Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 28 May (RMy). One was documented from Waterworks P., Des Moines for 5 May 1980 (+MBro).
- Golden-winged Warbler:** Record early dates were at Waterloo on 30 Apr. (RMy) and Amana Woods on 1 May (+CB). Several reporters commented on the large numbers of Golden-wings this year. Reports from w. Iowa included 2 in Mills Co. on 9 May (LPa,BPa,BWi), 3 in Cherokee on 13 May (MBre), and 3 in Dickinson Co. on 13 May (DH).
- Blue-winged Warbler:** One was at Ruthven on 8 May (JD).
- Tennessee Warbler:** Two at Ames on 27 Apr. (JR) were early.
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** One at Ames on 19 Apr. (JR) was a record early date.
- Nashville Warbler:** One at Ames on 25 Apr. (JR) was early.
- Northern Parula Warbler:** One in s. e. Polk Co. on 9 Apr. (RT) was a record early date. Another early date was 2 May at Swan L., Johnson Co. (TStau).
- Cape May Warbler:** Eight at Sweet M. on 13 May (RMy) were an unusually large number. A female in the top of a Norway spruce in Iowa City proved to be a difficult identification problem (TK,TStau). The other reports were from w. Iowa: Carroll on 13, 14 May (EW) and Dickinson Co. on 9 May (DH).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler:** No reports.
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** An early date was 22 Apr. at Ames (NR fide JD).
- Cerulean Warbler:** Record early dates were 27 Apr. at Amana Woods (TStau) and 29 Apr. at Ames (JSb fide JD).
- Blackburnian Warbler:** A record early date was 29 Apr. at Ames (JSb fide JD). Another early date was 2 May in Johnson Co. (JR).
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** One arrived at Roberts Riverside P. on the Des Moines R. n. of Keosauqua on the early date of 11 Apr. (+JSan) and was still singing there from the top of sycamores at the end of May. Other reports were from Ledges SP on 20, 23 Apr. (JR,HZ), Wildcat Den SP on 5 May (CS fide PP) but not other dates, Marble Rock on 20 May (DK), and Lacey-Keosauqua SP on 27 May (RMy).
- Bay-breasted Warbler:** One was early at Ames on 6 May (NR fide JD). One was at Manti Woods in s. w. Iowa on 21 May (BWi,RSi,BJR).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** One was early at Ames on 30 Apr. (LE fide JD).
- Pine Warbler:** None reported.
- Prairie Warbler:** One was singing at Grammer Grove P., Marshall Co., on 20 May (+BPr,RSo). The findings will be referred to the Records Committee because there are so few documented sightings and no specimen, photograph, or tape recording of this species.
- Palm Warbler:** One at Ames on 19 Apr. (JR) was a record early date.
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** One on 4 Apr. at Ames (+JR) was a record early date. Another was at White Pine Hollow on 18 Apr. (TK). Other locations were Waterloo, Lacey-Keosauqua SP, Shimek F., Nine Eagles SP, Wildcat Den SP and Ledges SP.

Connecticut Warbler: Several were at Hickory Hill P. from 17 to 23 May (m. ob.). Other locations were Sweet M. on 13 May (RMy, FM), Shenandoah on 19 May (JB fide RP), Yellow River F. on 23 May (RMy), and Cedar Falls on 24 May (FM).

Yellow-breasted Chat: One was early at Iowa City on 3 May (IOU field trip). Others were near Cone M. on 11 May (TK,PP,RSi,CB), Wildcat Den SP on 12 May (PP), Coralville Res. on 16 May (TStau), Red Rock Res. on 16 May (RT), and Yellow River F. on 23 May (FM).

Hooded Warbler: Three reports: Ames on 26 Apr. (+PM,GoB,GeB), w. of Coralville on 28 Apr. (JHu,TK), and Wildcat Den SP on 3 May (BW,DK,FM,RSi).

Wilson's Warbler: One was early at Ames on 3 May (JD).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Bobolink: One was at Webster City on 3 May (RC).

Orchard Oriole: Reports were 28 Apr. to 12 May n. of Montpelier, Muscatine Co. (PP), 6 May at Ames (HZ), and 16 May at Cherokee (MBre).

Northern Oriole: One was early at Ames on 24 Apr. (JR).

Brewer's Blackbird: Reports were from Cone M. on 21, 23 Mar. (TK,MN), Ames on 25 Apr. (DO fide JD), and Sweet M. on 10 May (dark eyed female, FM,TSJr).

Summer Tanager: In addition to the usual birds at Waubonsie, a pair was found at Slip Bluff SP, Decatur Co., on 15, 16 May (FM).

Blue Grosbeak: Ronald Harms submitted excellent photos of one at Laurens, Pocahontas Co., taken on 13 May. Another was found at Shimek F. on 29 May (RMy).

Dickcissel: The first appeared in Mills Co. on 30 Apr. (BW).

Evening Grosbeak: Wintering birds were last seen in Shenandoah on 20 Apr. (RP).

Pine Grosbeak: The one previously reported at State Center was seen by visitors on 8 Mar. (BK,CK,TSh,+MN,+TK).

Pine Siskin: A fledgling was noted in Ames in early May (JSB fide JD). Many lingered with late dates as follows: 22 May at Des Moines (RL), 19 May at Davenport (PP), 13 May at Iowa City (TStau), and 12 May at Ames (JR).

Red Crossbill: 1 male and two females stayed at Waterloo until May 31 (Randy Betsworth fide RMy,FM).

White-winged Crossbill: Wintering birds were last seen at Shenandoah on 6 Apr. (RP) and at Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport on 28 Apr. (PP).

Lark Bunting: A male was seen E. of Sweet M., Bremer Co., on 13 May (+FM,+RMy). Diagnostic photos were submitted. This is only the second record from this far east in the state.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Early dates were 10 Apr. at Hamburg (IG) and 19 Apr. at Hendrickson M. (GoB,GeB).

Henslow's Sparrow: Three were at the usual location at Hayden Pr. on 30 May (+FM,+RMy).

LeConte's Sparrow: Early and late dates were 11 Apr. at Cone M. (MN) and 15 May at Coralville Res. (TK,TStau). Peak count was 15-16 at Sweet M. in mid-Apr. (RMy,FM,RHa,TSJr).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: One was reported from Upper Ledges at Lost L. on 23 May (+GoB). Because of the rarity of this species, the documentation will be referred to the Records Committee.

Lark Sparrow: Locations noted by reporters were w. Johnson Co. (CB), Red Cedar MA, Muscatine Co. (JLK), s. of Muscatine (PP), Elkhart (DMos), and s. of Tieg's S., Story Co. (GoB,GeB).

Northern Junco: One was banded in Des Moines on 9 May (RL).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Dates were from 26 Apr. in Iowa City (TStau) to 13 May at

Pleasantville (RT). One was banded in Des Moines on 4 May (RL).

Swamp Sparrow: One was noted in Fremont Co. on 21 May (BWi).

Lapland Longspur: Four were at Lizard L., Pocahontas Co., on 21 Mar. (RC), an unusual record this year.

Smith's Longspur: A flock of 100 were reported from Johnson Co. on 11 Apr. (+TK-M+MM). See separate article by Kent. This record will be referred to the Records Committee for evaluation.

+ — documented

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Ron Anderson (JLH); George Brown (GoB); Gay Crim (JD); Steve Dinsmore (JD); Lee Ellis (JD); Lucille Fast (EW); Marge Graf (TB); Janet Greer (TB); Phyllis Harris (BPr); Russell Hays (FM); James Huntington (TK); Stephanie Jamison (TB); Bernie Knight (TK) Cal Knight (TK); James Kovanda (TB); Sandra Kovanda (TB); Michelle Kreidler (JD); Christyma Laubach (RL); Mike Mulier (TK); Tom Neal (DH); Bill Ohde (JH); Dennis Orcut (JD); Babs Padelford (TB,BWi); Loren Padelford (TB,BWi); Mark Proscholdt (BPr); Bill Robbins (JD); Nick Rodenhouse (JD); B. J. Rose (TB,BWi,RSi); Mark Ryan (JD); Bill Rybarczyk (JD); Sylvia Salliquist (TB); Joe Schaefer (JD); Joe Schaufenbuel (JD); Clark Scott (PP); Garnita Seward (BPr); Thomas Shires (TK); Ramona Sommerlot (BPr); Tom Stone Jr. (FM); Jim & Jan Walter (JLH); Dave Van Waus (DN).

COMMENTS

This spring was an outstanding season. Undoubtedly this was in part due to more birds being present early and an unusual number of accidentals and casuals, but it must also have been due to the excellent coverage of the state by Iowa birders (and those from Omaha too!). Thirty-six contributors submitted a pile of paper including 60 documentations of unusual sightings. It was difficult to select and cull the many records down to the size of this report. Without some much needed help from Rick Hollis and Carl Bendorf, I might still be compiling and typing. It was nice to have a number of new contributors. They provided much needed coverage from Des Moines, Muscatine County, and Marshall County as well as other areas. And thanks to Fred Leshner for tripping down to northeast Iowa from LaCrosse.

I am still working on a long-winded set of guidelines and information for contributors as advertised on the back cover of the last issue and this one. Please give me a little more time, as I would like to have a few people review it before putting it out for consumption. In the meantime, I can supply reporting and documentation form sheets.

GENERAL NOTES

First Iowa Record of Thayer's Gull -- On March 18 I was told by Barbara Wilson of Hastings, Iowa that B. J. Rose of Omaha had found two first-year Thayer's Gulls at Lake Manawa, and also a possible adult. Realizing that this would be a first state record for this species, I went to Lake Manawa March 19, and together with Rose and other experienced birders from Omaha, found the two first-year birds. The AOU recently split this species from Herring Gull, but many experts believe that it should be more closely allied with Iceland Gull, even perhaps to the extent of lumping with that species. As seen from the description below, the field characters are indeed similar to the Iceland Gull rather than the Herring Gull. In fact, in Iowa the field identification of this species is far simpler than for example on the west coast, as Herring Gull will be usually the only source of confusion, Iceland Gull being very rare in the interior.

The observations took place from about 9:30 to 11 a.m. in bright, sunny conditions, allowing excellent comparison with first year Herring Gulls. My binoculars are 7 X 40 Bushnells, and my telescope is a 25X Bauscope Sr. The birds were closely observed (no further than 200 yards) both at rest with some 200 Ring-billed Gulls and in flight while feeding with Ring-bills and about 15 first-year and second-year Herring Gulls, with a few adult Herring Gulls present.

Peter Petersen, Tom Shires, and Tom Kent saw one immature bird March 24, and I saw one first year bird March 27 with Mr. and Mrs. Gene Amrstrong. Photographs were taken by B. J. Rose with results pending, by Tom Kent, whose results were inconclusive due to distance from the birds and by Peter Petersen.

DESCRIPTION: The first bird found was in typical first year plumage for the large gulls of the genus *Larus*: overall brown appearance, noticeably larger than the Ring-billed Gulls in the area (about 150), and about the same size, but somewhat less bulky-looking than the 10 or so first-year Herring Gulls present. The bird was first seen feeding with the other gulls, and comparison with first-year Herring Gulls yielded the following points of difference:

(1) **Bill:** The bill was mostly black, while the Herrings all had bills at least 75 percent pale-colored, with just the tips dark. The bill was also less bulky than in the Herrings, giving the head and bill together a more "delicate" look than the Herrings'. Lehman described this look as "pigeon-headed".

(2) **Tail and Primaries:** There was much less contrast between the overall body plumage color and the color of the upper surface of both the primaries and tail band in the Thayer's than in the Herrings. The very dark tail band of the latter species was in sharp contrast with the rump, causing the latter to appear paler than the general body plumage. Similarly the upper surface of the primaries of the Herrings stood out as being much darker than the mantle, whereas even though the upper primaries were noticeable darker in the Thayer's, there was little contrast between them and the mantle. The overall impression was that the Thayer's was a paler bird, more even in coloration, whereas the Herring was a darker-appearing more contrastingly-plumaged bird.

(3) **Tail:** Noticeable in the Thayer's was the pale, virtually white, trailing edge to the tail, which was lacking in the Herrings. One Herring Gull did show a paler trailing edge on its tail, possibly due to feather wear, as at this time of year some transition would be expected into second year plumages. Incidentally the bill of the bird described here (Thayer's) would indicate that this transition was underway due to the presence of the pale basal area. Lehman states that this change is well-noted in California birds in late winter.

(4) **Flight:** Probably the most convincing identifying character was seen when



Thayer's Gull at Lake Manawa
Photos by B. J. Rose

the bird was in flight overhead. The primaries and all the flight feathers were almost translucent, with no trace of darker areas, such as were obvious in the primary area of the wings of the Herrings when seen from the same angle. These darker areas in the primaries of the Herring Gulls were somewhat irregular, not seeming to be in the same area of the wingtips which is black in adults. The translucence of the flight feathers in the Thayer's allowed the bird to be picked out in flight, and identification could be confirmed by checking the other characteristics described above. The general flight character of the Thayer's was lighter, or more bouyant, with the body seeming slimmer or more streamlined, causing the Herring Gulls to remind me of Red-tailed Hawks in that their flight seemed realtively cumbersome. The second Thayer's Gull was identical in plumage to the

bird described above, but its bill was totally black or very dark, indicating that it was probably slightly younger than the first bird.

SEPARATION FROM OTHER SPECIES: The above description separates by direct comparison first-year Thayer's and Herring Gulls, the most similar species present. Thayer's may be confused in first year plumage with Kumlien's form of Iceland Gull, but the Thayer's had primaries slightly darker than the mantle (from above), whereas the opposite occurs in Iceland Gull (Lehman). Lehman also notes that some first-year Western Gulls may show translucent primaries from below in certain light but these observations took place in excellent light at fairly close range.

Tom Kent kindly forwarded a copy of his documentation of the bird his group saw March 24, apparently the bird with the pale base to the bill (see my description above). Additional features described by Kent are:

(1) "Wing coverts with distinct light edging on dull light brown feathers." "The most outstanding features noted were . . . the edging on the wing feathers giving a mottled effect (The Herrings were plain brown) . . ."

(2) "Also the head feathers extended further out over the upper mandible than the lower."

The bird seen with the Armstrongs March 27 was rather far away, but telescope views were sufficient to note the different head shape, paler overall coloration, by comparison with an adjacent first-year Herring Gull. This bird was probably the same seen by Kent's group. — W. ROSS SILCOCK, RR 2, Malvern.

White-faced Ibis at Lake Manawa -- At 1:25 p.m. on May 13, 1981 we encountered 14 White-face Ibis feeding in shallow water at the southwest corner of Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Their overall dark color, long legs, and decurved bill made them easily recognizable as ibis. All appeared to be in breeding plumage with red facial patch and uniform, distinct, thick white line around the facial patch and extending behind the eye. The head, upper neck, and back were black with a slight reddish sheen. A brighter greenish sheen was noted on the wings. The bill was bluish and legs dark orange-yellow. The birds were busy feeding and paid little attention to us as we took photographs. We learned later that they had been spotted an hour earlier by B. J. Rose of Omaha. The birds were still present the next day at noon, but were seen to fly off to the north at that time. -- THOMAS H. KENT, 211 Richards St., Iowa City and W. ROSS SILCOCK, Rt. 1, Malvern.

Burrowing Owl in Story County -- The Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*)



White-faced Ibis, Lake Manawa, May 13, 1981
Photo by T. H. Kent

is a western species of the Great Plains that is seldom seen in Iowa. In fact, ornithological records indicate that only three other sightings of this bird have been reported since 1969 with the Ames sighting being the most easterly of the four.

March ended on a very stormy note. Wind gusts during the day and evening of the 31st had been clocked at 70 mph with heavy thunderstorms blanketing the state. The following morning, April 1st, Susan Coats and another graduate student drove to the Iowa State University research farm which is located 1.4 miles south of new Highway 30 on Elwood Drive (Story County, SE quarter of section 21, T83NR24W). Upon entering the driveway to the farm, a flash of light brown and white flew by the passenger's side of the car. The passenger assumed that the bird was an American Kestrel but Coats was unconvinced because the bird was of the wrong size and color. Failing to locate the bird during the next few minutes, they obtained their supplies from the quonset hut and started back down the driveway. Once again the bird shot over the car and landed in a plowed field six feet from the car door. The owl's yellow eyes, earless, rounded head, white chin, skinny legs and brown and patterned belly and back gave away its true identity, a Burrowing Owl. Coats had seen several of these diurnal owls in prairie dog towns around the Black Hills the previous year.

In response to movement of the car or its passengers, the owl became quite agitated and flew in short hops of 20 to 30 feet and then would land in the nearby road, ditch or plowed field. After watching the bird for 10 minutes, Coats returned to Ames and notified Nancy Gorder and Hank Zaletel who verified the sighting.

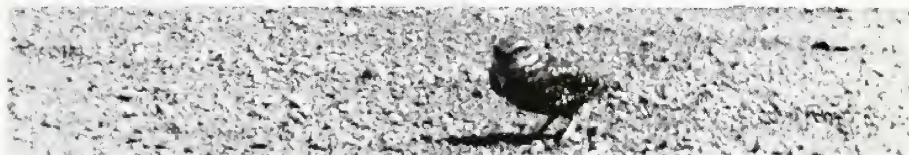
Hank Zaletel then notified his wife, Dr. Jim Dinsmore and several of his students who then returned to the site around noon. They searched for approximately half an hour and were ready to leave when the owl emerged from the culvert under the driveway. He opened his mouth and it appeared that he would let loose with a warning call. Instead, the owl regurgitated a pellet. It was recovered and an analysis of it revealed a partial skull and two pair of lower mandibles along with other bones and fur of the White-footed Mouse (*Peromyscus*). No insect parts were found.

In 1938 in Clay County, Iowa, the pellets of a nesting Burrowing Owl were recovered and analyzed and were found to contain the remains of the White-footed Mouse (*Peromyscus*) and vole (*Microtus*), the predominate small mammals of that area. Many insect parts were also identified in the order *Coleoptera* (beetles).

Pellets of Burrowing Owls found in western states contained the remains of jack rabbits and toads in addition to the small mammals and insects already mentioned.

By late afternoon, the owl had become much more cautious and would not let anyone closer than forty yards. To our knowledge, this was the last sighting of the owl for the following morning the bird could not be found.

Scott, T. G. 1940. The Western Burrowing Owl in Clay County, Iowa in 1938.



Burrowing Owl

Photo by Hank & Linda Zaletel

Literature Cited

- Bond, R. M. 1942. Food of the Burrowing Owl in western Nevada. *Condor* 44:183.
Franklin, W. L. 1978. *A Guide to the Mammals of Iowa and Other North American Mammalian Families*. Iowa State University Research Foundation Inc.

American Midland Naturalist 24:585-593.

Thomsen, L. 1971. Behavior and Ecology of Burrowing Owls. *Condor* 73:177-192.
HANK & LINDA ZALETEL, 667 Pammel Ct. & SUSAN COATS, 1015 Roosevelt,
Ames.

Arctic Loon at Amana Lake -- In the late afternoon of April 28, 1981, I had searched the area near East Amana where a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher had been found two days earlier. Apparently the bird was gone so I decided to quickly scan the nearby Amana Lake, two miles west of Amana in Iowa County. At about 5:30 p.m. I spotted two loons about 400 yards out in the water. The two birds were swimming together and as they slowly moved closer to shore it was clear that one bird was a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). The second was somewhat smaller and with a 20X scope the following details were noted: dark and straight bill, throat and lower cheek area appeared solid black with a sharp delineation between the dark throat and a white breast. The top and back of the head and the back of the upper neck were solid gray in color. The back of the bird was black with four patches of white flecking on the back. There was one horizontal patch of flecking above each folded wing and two smaller patches in the middle of the back.

I quickly called Lanny Haldy of East Amana and Mike and Carol Newlon of Iowa City. Upon arrival, they confirmed that the bird was an Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*) in full breeding plumage. The bird continued to swim slowly in company with the Common Loon thus providing an excellent plumage and size comparison. Both loons occasionally dove briefly and rode in the water with heads tucked under their wings.

Tom Kent and Jim Sandrock arrived from Iowa City to view the bird and Tom Shires later had a very close view as the two loons continued to drift toward the shore of the lake. Another group from Iowa City glimpsed the bird through the fog the next morning. As they drove around the lake for a closer look, they spied two loons winging their way toward the horizon.

The normal range of the Arctic Loon in winter is along the Pacific Coast from southern Alaska to northwest Mexico. It strays casually to the Atlantic coast and is accidental in the inland states. There are fewer than a dozen previous records in Iowa. Most of the sightings in Iowa and surrounding states have been in the fall. -- CARL J. BENDORF, 825 7th Ave., Iowa City.

Immature Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Amana -- On April 26, 1981, Lanny Haldy, Joan Sniewzewski, and I were birding several miles east of East Amana in northeast Iowa County. At approximately 1 p.m. we drove down a dirt road next to a pasture area with scattered trees. We were hoping we might find a mockingbird and when we spotted a slim gray long-tailed bird on the wire fence we thought we had found one. But, a quick second glance revealed this bird to be one none of us had previously seen.

As we trained a 20X scope on the bird we observed a slender graceful body about the size of a catbird. The bill was dark and straight and of medium size. The throat, breast, and belly were white and without any markings. The head and back were solid gray, the wings were blackish, and the dark tail was as long as the body of the bird itself. When the wings were raised, the bird showed pale scarlet or crimson wing linings. Consultation with our field guides, especially Robbins, indicated that this bird was an immature Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). The possibility that this was a Western Kingbird was eliminated by the length of the tail and the scarlet wing linings. An adult scissor-tail should have had an even longer tail and some indication of scarlet or red near the shoulder of the folded wing.

We raced to the nearest phone and within sixty minutes Randy Graesser and Marcia Schutterle of East Amana, and Tom Kent, Tom Shires, and Rick Hollis of



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, East Amana, Iowa

Photo by Tom Kent

Iowa City had all arrived on the scene. Everyone achieved very good views of the bird as it sallied forth in typical flycatcher fashion from various perches. On several occasions, the scissor-tail would suddenly dart 50-75 feet straight up in the air, catch a large insect, and then swoop downward as two long black tailfeathers with white outer edges "scissored" open and shut.

Several other birders found the bird later that same day and very early the next morning, but it has not been seen since.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is a casual species in Iowa and has been reported in approximately half of the last 20 years with one reported nesting near Ames in 1979 (Burns, Thierman and Zeletel).

Literature cites

Burns, G., Thierman, A., and Zeletel, H. 1979. The first nesting of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Iowa, *Iowa Bird Life* 49:77-78.

CARL J. BENDORF, 825 7th Ave., Iowa City.

BOOK REVIEWS

Harper & Row's Complete Field Guide to N. Am. Wildlife -- Henry H. Collins (Eastern Vol.) and Jay E. Ransom (Western Vol.) -- Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., N.Y. -- 824 p., 110 plates (E.) and 928 p., 129 plates (W.) -- 1981 -- \$12.95 each vol., flexible cover, \$17.50, hard cover.

These two books are an update of Collins's *Complete Field Guide to American Wildlife* published in 1961. This time consultants were engaged in rework the earlier material. Lester Short worked on the bird sections and five artists produced the bird plates. A description, illustration, voice data and range are provided for each species, and for some, habits, similarities, eggs, and remarks are included. About half of the plates are in color. In summary the books seem useful in bringing together under one cover a broad mass of identification information for all naturalists. ed.

Stories About Birds and Bird Watchers from Bird Watcher's Digest -- Mary B. Bowers, ed. -- Atheneum, N.Y. -- 234 p. -- 1981 -- \$12.95.

This collection of 38 articles spans the subject of birds from specific individual species accounts to dedicated listing stories. If you have been a subscriber to *Bird Watcher's Digest* you will know the *Reader's Digest* type approach. The book would make a nice gift for a casual bird watcher looking to expand their horizons. ed.

Yellow-legs -- John Janovy, Jr. -- St. Martin's Press, N.Y. -- 192 p. -- 1980 -- \$9.95.

Janovy is a nature writer who uses a "stream of consciousness style" of sorts. He hits many key points of the struggle between nature and development. He

relates his studies of the Lesser Yellowlegs as he follows the bird along its migratory route. If you are looking for a stimulating nature book, this might prove to be that book. ed.

Birds and Marshes of the Chesapeake Bay Country -- Brooke Meanley -- Tidewater Publishers -- Centerville, Md. -- 157 p., 98 b. & w. illus. -- 1975 -- \$6.50 paperbound.

Meanley has roamed these wetlands for over thirty years and his conversational style imparts his feel for the area to the reader. Although it is not a bird finding guide it would prove useful for the birder searching for some of the unique birds of this region. An appendix lists the common and scientific names of the forms mentioned. Even if you do not plan to bird the area the book will prove enlightening to your understanding of marshes. ed.

Birdlife at Chincoteague and the Virginia Barrier Islands -- Brooke Meanley -- Tidewater Publishers, Centerville, Md. -- 117 p., 95 b. & w. illus. -- 1981 -- paperbound, \$7.50.

Using a format similar to the preceding book, Meanley highlights the common and special species, and mentions some unusual strays. An appendix lists the Christmas Bird Count species high counts. Another valuable regional book. ed.

Burrowing Birds -- Anita Gustafson -- Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, N.Y. -- 64 p., 18 b. & w. drawings -- 1981 -- \$7.95.

This children's book was written by an Iowan, Anita Gustafson of Des Moines. Aimed at an audience of 9 to 11 year olds, it introduces an aspect of bird behavior most young people would not expect. The information is accurate and nicely presented. ed.

Jungles -- Edward S. Agensu, ed. -- Crown Publishers, Inc., NY -- 200 p., many color and black and white illustrations -- 1980 -- \$35.00.

This book is a fine, general introduction into the very complex habitat, the tropical rain forest or jungle. The three major rain forest areas in the world are capsulized, then the components of the ecology are taken up in a series of two page sections. Jungle partnerships or interrelationships, man's impact, and the products derived from these areas are covered in some detail. This overview would be great for high school, college, and public libraries. It makes a plea for preservation of this fast disappearing resource. ed.

Florida Bird Songs -- Donald J. Borror & Maurice L. Giltz -- Dover Publications, Inc., NY -- 12" record and 32 p. booklet -- 1980 -- \$4.50.

Dover has produced another new, inexpensive bird recording. The arrangement of calls on the record is by habitat and 59 species are included. The booklet provides a black and white illustration of each bird, verbal description of the song, list of birds regularly occurring in Florida with season, abundance and habitat, sonograms of the calls, and exact location list for the recordings. It is an excellent record and should prove helpful to anyone planning a visit to Florida. ed.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia -- Graham Pizzey -- Princeton University Press, Princeton, NY -- 460 p., 56 color and 32 black and white plates -- 1980 -- \$27.50.

Finally Australia has a single volume field guide. It seems an excellent book, especially the plates which bring back fond memories of field experiences of 1974. The text provides field marks, habitat, calls, breeding habits and range. Distribution maps are also included for reference. The plates are comparable to Slater, better in some cases. They are not with the text but in a central section, however a size scale included. Having struggled with four field guides plus one of my own making in Australia, I can heartily recommend a single volume treatment, especially one this well done. ed.

The Illustrated Bird Watcher's Dictionary -- Donald S. Heintzelman -- Win-

chester Press, Tulsa -- 164 p., 100 plus black and white photos -- 1980 -- \$11.95.

Heintzelman has been turning out a flood of books of questionable value and this is probably the worst yet. Many of the terms are so obscure as to be of virtually no interest. Some individuals are listed in sections which vary from one sentence to half a page. This is certainly a book to be examined before purchase. ed.

Birds of the West Coast, Vol. 2 -- J. F. Landsowne -- Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston -- 161 p., 48 color plates, 48 line drawings -- 1980 -- \$40.00.

Another volume of beautifully done paintings faithfully reproduced. This is a must for all Landsowne's fanciers. The only two birds that seem to come off somewhat unsuccessfully are the Golden-crowned Kinglets and House Finches. This is one expensive book well worth the price for all admirers of fine bird art. ed.

Bird Island in Antarctic Waters -- David F. Parmelee -- U. of Minn. Press, Minneapolis -- 140 p., 19 color and many black and white illus. -- 1980 -- \$19.95.

Bird Island is one of the South Georgia group east of Cape Horn. The author spent six weeks here among a quarter of a million penguins and many albatross, petrels, skuas, ducks, pipits, and cormorants. His account of this remarkable concentration of bird life and the research devoted to it is lucidly written and beautifully illustrated. ed.

To Whom the Wilderness Speaks -- Louise de Kiriline Lawrence -- McGraw Hill, NY -- 180 p., many line drawings -- 1980 -- \$14.95.

Mrs. Lawrence has lived in the coniferous forest of Ontario for over 50 years. Her observations of nature reflect sensitivity, humor, and precision. This book will be enjoyed by all to whom the wilderness speaks. ed.

Birds, Readings from Scientific American -- introduced by Barry Wilson -- W. H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco -- 276 p., 153 color and 143 black and white illus. -- 1980 -- \$19.95, paperbound, \$9.95.

Twenty-five articles relating to birds which appeared between 1948 and 1979 have been reprinted in book form. Included are articles by Storer, Welty, Lack, Hailman, Emlen, Greenwalt, and Thorpe. The book is divided into seven sections, diversity of birds; flight; migration and navigation; evolution; behavior; physiology and song; and birds and people. Each section begins with an introduction of new material. It is convenient to have the bird related articles from a major science journal under one cover. ed.

The Birds of The Gambia -- Jorn V. Jensen and Jens Kirkeby -- Aros Nature Guides, Arhus, Denmark -- 284 p., 2 color and over 100 black and white photos, 385 maps -- 1980 -- paperbound, \$30.00.

The Gambia, a narrow country and the smallest in Africa, is located along the River Gambia in the southern part of the western projection of the continent. This book is an annotated checklist and status listing of 489 species with dry season maps included for almost 400 species. Bird watching localities, 37 of them, are also described and 19 are mapped. Much new material is presented for a unique place. ed.

Fool Hen -- The Spruce Grouse on the Yellow Dog Plains -- William L. Robinson -- U. of Wisconsin Press, Madison -- 221 p., 5 color photos -- 1980 -- \$18.50.

This is the first monograph on the Spruce Grouse. It is written in a non-technical style and is based on research conducted in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The title derives from the nickname of this extremely tame bird. The entire life cycle is described, hunting considerations are covered and an appendix suggests ways of finding the bird in Michigan. ed.

The Merlins of the Welsh Marches -- D. A. Orton -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, VT -- 165 pp., 8 black and white photos -- 1980 -- \$19.95.

This book is the outgrowth of the author's four-study of Merlins and was developed from detailed diaries. His fear of the loss of these beautiful little falcons

due to habitat destruction and pesticides led to his study. This is not a scientific study, but the work of a very enthusiastic layman. It will entertain, instruct, amuse, and probably provoke the reader. ed.

The Mystery of Migration -- Robin Baker, ed. -- Viking Press, NY -- 256 p., many color and black and white illustrations -- 1981 -- \$29.95.

This is an excellent general view of a very complex subject. The chapter on birds is 40 p., and is very well done. It covers the methods used to study bird migration, types of migration, patterns of migration in various parts of the world, seabird movements, the physiology of migration, and man's impact on migration. This would be an excellent book for high school, college, and public libraries. ed.

A Naturalist on a Tropical Farm -- Alexander Skutch -- University of California Press, Berkeley -- 405 p., 1 color and many black and white plates -- 1980 -- \$16.95, paperbound, \$7.95.

After years of writing detailed life histories of many tropical species, Skutch has turned to a more popular format. In this vein he is quite successful, especially in this offering on some of the birds and other fauna he studied in Costa Rica. Several chapters have appeared in part in magazines, such as *Nature* and *Audubon*, but have been expanded and revised for the book. Those who have not experienced the tropics first hand will get a good preview, travelers will renew acquaintance with old friends. ed.

Breeding Biology of the Egyptian Plover -- Thomas R. Howell, Univ. of California Press, Pubs. in Zool. Vol. 113, Berkeley -- 82 p., 1 color and 20 black and white photos, 11 tables and charts -- 1980 -- paperbound, \$10.50.

The Egyptian Plover is unusual in its habit of burying its eggs in the sand and leaving them to be incubated by the sun. It is also said to obtain food from the jaws and teeth of basking crocodiles, an act not positively documented, or observed by the author. The birds do incubate their sand covered eggs and dampen their feathers prior to incubation to counteract moisture loss in a very hot habitat. The 30 day incubation period results in a well developed chick better able to survive. ed.

Rare Bird Alert: A committee has been formed to investigate the possibility of setting up an Iowa Rare Bird Alert. Anyone is invited to help by sending us their thoughts. We especially ask your help regarding the operation, financing and evaluation of an Iowa R. B. A. Rick Hollis, 3351 Lower West Branch Rd., Iowa City, Ia. 52240.

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FIELD REPORTS

Field reports should be mailed to the Field Reports Editor (T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240) four times a year according to the following schedule:

season	mail by	must be received by
Winter (Dec., Jan., Feb.)	1 March	7 March
Spring (Mar., Apr., May)	1 June	7 June
Summer (Jun., Jul.)	1 August	7 August
Fall (Aug., Sep., Oct., Nov.)	1 December	7 December

Reportable species include those that are uncommon or rare and those seen in unusual numbers or at unusual times or unusual locations. Species must be listed in Checklist order and include number of birds seen, date, place (including County if not well known), and observer(s). Reports should be printed or typed on 8½ x 11 inch white paper using black ink. Report forms, documentation forms and instructions are available from the Field Reports Editor for one dollar. Species which must be documented are given in *Iowa Bird Life* 50:73, 1980. Full descriptions and accounts of accidental species should also be submitted as a NOTE to the Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.